Award Title: USDLA Excellence in Distance Learning Research Award
Award Description: The Excellence in Distance Learning Research Award is given to a person(s) or organization(s) that currently conducts research in the field of distance education. The award recognizes high quality research that serves to advance the field of distance learning.

Criteria	Strong (10)	Medium (5)	Weak (1)	Sample Artifacts
Major impact on advancement of distance learning	Research addresses a major concept of distance learning and has the potential to make a significant difference in advancing distance learning	Research addresses a concept of distance learning	Research is not particularly relevant to the advancement of distance learning	Description of how the research meets this criterion
Sound research methods	Research uses sound research methodology that is described as part of the research and uses established measures or frameworks for collecting and analyzing study data. Research has been published, peer reviewed, or university approved. (ie dissertation/thesis)	Research methodology could be strengthened Research is in the process of being peer reviewed or dissertation/thesis is in the process of being accepted by the university	Research does not use sound research methodology Research has not been peer reviewed and accepted or dissertation/thesis has not been accepted by the university	Description of how the research meets this criterion
Originality and innovativeness	The research covers innovative topics or emerging trends in distance education, training, and/or telehealth that has the potential to make a major impact on distance learning	The research makes a minor impact on distance learning through a new concept	The research makes no significant impact on distance learning	Description of how the research meets this criterion