

USDLA Trendsetter Innovation Award/Multimodality

Award description: This award recognizes faculty, instructional designers, schools, or organizations that exemplify visionary leadership in the use of digital tools and platforms. Award recipients demonstrate their commitment to advancing the field of online and virtual learning by establishing creative, effective, and forward-thinking approaches that are redefining traditional learning experiences. Their work reflects innovation that forges beyond conventional practices to set new standards of excellence in the era of digital education.

Multimodality

This award recognizes faculty, instructional designers, schools, or organizations, and individuals who design and implement learning environments that skillfully integrate multiple modes of instruction, including video, audio, interactive technologies, virtual augmented and/or extended reality (AR, VR, XR), and emerging media. Award recipients demonstrate a capacity to engage diverse learners by creatively and thoughtfully curating modalities that deepen understanding, foster active participation, and expand the reach of online education.

Rubric:

Criterion	Strong (10)	Medium (5)	Weak (1)
Integration of Modalities	Seamlessly integrates multiple modalities (video, audio, VR/AR, interactive tools, etc.) into a cohesive learning experience.	Uses multiple modalities but with limited integration or effectiveness.	Minimal use of multimodal approaches; disjointed or poorly applied.
Learner Engagement	Strong evidence that multimodal design significantly increases student engagement and interaction.	Moderate evidence of improved engagement.	Little or no evidence of engagement benefit.

Pedagogical Effectiveness	Demonstrates clear impact on learning gains and outcomes and long-term knowledge retention using multimodal strategies.	Some positive effects, but limited in depth or evidence.	Minimal or unclear impact on learning.
Creativity in Design	Innovative, original, and unique use of multimodal tools, pushing creative boundaries.	Some creativity is demonstrated, but the application is conventional.	Lacks creativity or originality.
Evidence of Outcomes	Comprehensive evidence (student feedback, learning data, case studies) supports claims of effectiveness.	Some supporting evidence, but incomplete or limited.	Minimal or no evidence provided.