USDLA Awards Stanford University’s PBL Lab with 21st Century Best Practices for Excellence in Distance Learning in 2010

PBL Lab, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University honored by the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) with the world's most prestigious distance learning award presented for excellence in distance learning.

St. Louis, MO -- May 5, 2010 -- The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) presented its 2010 International Distance Learning Award to Project Based Learning Laboratory (PBL Lab), Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University in conjunction with the 2010 National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. USDLA is a 501(c) 3 non-profit association, founded in 1987, as the nation’s leading distance learning organization. The association reaches 20,000 people globally with sponsors and members operating in and influencing 46% of the $913 billion dollar U.S. education and training market.

These prestigious International Awards are presented annually to organizations and individuals engaged in the development and delivery of distance learning programs. Included in the recognition ceremony were awards for 21st Century Best Practice, Best Practice for Distance Learning Programming, Excellence in Distance Learning Teaching, Outstanding Leadership by an Individual, Hall of Fame and Eagle Awards.

"As a premier organization for the entire distance learning profession, we are honoring PBL Lab, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University as a leader in the industry," said Dr. John G. Flores, CEO of USDLA. “The PBL Lab, at Stanford University has raised the bar of excellence and we are truly honored by its contributions to the distance learning industry."

The USDLA Awards were created to acknowledge major accomplishments in distance learning and to highlight those distance learning instructors, programs, and professionals who have achieved and demonstrated extraordinary results through the use of online, videoconferencing, satellite and blended learning delivery technologies.

"Congratulations to PBL Lab, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University and every one of this year's award winners. USDLA takes great pride and responsibility in recognizing excellence and quality that benefit the entire industry. Through distance learning, education, and training we can provide access to the world's best award winning opportunities for school children, connect higher education students globally and transform the lives and careers of working adults. We are truly on the edge of something great and these winners clearly demonstrate and confirm the transformative powers of distance learning globally," said Reggie Smith III, President of USDLA.
“The world does not come to us as neat disciplinary problems, but as complex interdisciplinary challenges,” said Professor John Hennessy, President of Stanford University in an interview in 2007. “These challenges are not only interdisciplinary, but also global,” said Dr. Renate Fruchter, Founding Director of the PBL Lab, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, at Stanford University. “As educators it is our mission to prepare next generation workforces to team up and collaborate with professionals from other disciplines. By leveraging innovative information and collaboration technologies (ICT), such as secure virtual workspaces from Teleplace, global teams are able to engage in rich multimedia and multimodal interactions and produce higher quality, environmentally sustainable products faster and more economically. The Computer Integrated Architecture, Engineering, Construction (AEC) Global Teamwork (AEC Global Teamwork) course at Stanford, which is part of the PBL Lab activities, in collaboration with a growing global network of university and industry partners, demonstrates how efficiently, effectively, and seamlessly global teams can and should work together.”

Julie Young, Chair of USDLA Board of Directors and President/CEO of Florida Virtual School (FLVS), noted that, “Once again this year’s award winners represent many of the most innovative leaders in the field of distance learning.” She continued, “I also look forward to seeing PBL Lab, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University again during our 2010 USDLA Public Policy Forum in Washington, D.C., September 22, 2010 and/or during National Distance Learning Week (http://www.ndlw.org), November 8-12, 2010.”

About PBL Lab
The PBL Lab http://pbl.stanford.edu, is the home of a unique, innovative, integrated research and curriculum development effort launched in 1993 in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Stanford University. The PBL Lab's goal is to be a world leader in Global Teamwork together with its university and industry partners.

The mission of the PBL Lab is to engage graduate and undergraduate students, faculty, and industry practitioners in multi-disciplinary, collaborative, geographically distributed PBL activities. PBL is a process of teaching and learning that focuses on problem based, project centered activities that produce a product for a client. PBL implements new agile processes that bring people from multiple disciplines together.

PBL Lab’s objectives are to develop, implement, test, deploy, and assess radically new and innovative collaboration and learning technologies; knowledge capture, sharing and re-use technologies; interactive work spaces and places, learning and work processes that support collaborative, cross-disciplinary, geographically distributed teamwork and learning.

About United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)
The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) is a non-profit association formed in 1987 and is located in Boston, Massachusetts. The association reaches 20,000 people globally with sponsors and members operating in and influencing 46% of the $913 billion dollar U.S. education and training market. USDLA promotes the development and application of distance learning for education and training and serves the needs of the distance learning community by providing advocacy, information, networking and opportunity. Distance learning and training constituencies served include pre-k-12 education, higher and continuing education,
home schooling as well as business, corporate, military, government and telehealth markets. The USDLA trademarked logo is the recognized worldwide symbol of dedicated professionals committed to the distance learning industry. http://www.usdla.org

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