



USDLA Awards Ron Legon, Executive Director of the Quality Matters™ Program with the Outstanding Leadership by an Individual Award for Excellence in Distance Learning in 2008

Ron Legon was recently 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, April 23, 2008 -- The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) yesterday presented its 2008 International Distance Learning Award to Ron Legon, Executive Director of the Quality Matters™ Program sponsored by MarylandOnline in conjunction with the 2008 National Conference in St. Louis, Missouri. Since 1987, USDLA has been the world's premier distance learning association. The USDLA International Awards program honored outstanding individuals and organizations for excellence in the field distance learning, education and training.

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 Ron Legon as a leader in the industry," said Dr. John G. Flores, CEO of USDLA. "The Quality Matters Program has raised the bar of excellence and we are truly honored by Dr. Legon's 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. In addition, winners will be recognized in an edition of USDLA's Distance Learning Today quarterly supplement. Distance Learning Today appears in USA TODAY's top-tier markets for distance learning - major commuter hubs, convention centers and hotels. It is read by 3.5 million goal-oriented, affluent professionals who recognize the value of distance learning, education and training. The section will also be featured on the USDLA website, which averages 2.6 million hits per month.

Dr. Legon responded that he is "proud to have played a role in developing and promoting a program that is helping so many schools achieve their goals for high quality distance learning programs through better course design and more effective faculty development.

activities.”

Mr. Reggie Smith III, USDLA board member and chair of the awards committee, noted that, “We look forward to seeing how the Quality Matters Program will inspire the 2009 award entries as they are recognized in Distance Learning Today to 3.5 million readers and via their participation in National Distance Learning Week (<http://www.ndlw.org>), November 10-14, 2008.”

About Quality Matters

Quality Matters (QM) is a faculty-centered, peer review process designed to certify the quality of online courses and online components. Sponsored by MarylandOnline, Inc, Quality Matters has generated widespread interest and received national recognition for its peer-based approach to quality assurance and continuous improvement in online education. Originating from a FIPSE grant, Quality Matters is now a self-supporting organization offering institutional subscriptions and a range of fee-based services including Quality Matters-managed course reviews and an array of trainings.

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. 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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