



## **USDLA Awards The Office of Distance Education Department of Foreign Languages with a Gold Award for Best Practices in a Distance Learning Program in 2010.**

*The Office of Distance Education Department of Foreign Languages 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: May 5, 2010** -- The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) presented its 2010 International Distance Learning Awards to The Office of Distance Education Department of Foreign Languages 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 The Office of Distance Education Department of Foreign Languages," said Dr. John G. Flores, CEO of USDLA." The Office of Distance Education Department of Foreign Languages (ODE) has raised the bar of excellence and we are truly honored by ODE 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 ODE 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.

David Slaymaker, ODE Department Chair said “I am incredibly excited that ODE has received this honor from USDLA. Our instructors work extraordinarily hard to provide the highest quality instruction to our client schools, and I am very pleased that their hard work and dedication is being recognized.”

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 ODE 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.”

The ODE Department of Foreign Languages offers instruction in Spanish, French and German throughout Arkansas and nationwide. All classes are delivered in real-time via video and taught by certified instructors whose courses are correlated to local curriculum guidelines. These classes are offered repeatedly throughout the day and allow districts a way to add breadth and depth to the curriculum and ensure there is a high quality instructor in every language classroom regardless of time of day or remoteness of geographic location.

#### **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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