

## **USDLA Awards The George Washington University Department of Nursing Education's "National Nurse Emergency Preparedness Initiative" with Best Practices Award for Distance Learning Programming For Excellence in Distance Learning in 2008**

posted: April 24, 2008, 9:49 AM

*The George Washington University Department of Nursing Education 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 The George Washington University Department of Nursing Education's National Nurse Emergency Preparedness Initiative (NNEPI) 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 The George Washington University Department of Nursing Education as a leader in the industry," said Dr. John G. Flores, CEO of USDLA. "The National Nurse Emergency Preparedness Initiative project team at The George Washington University Department of Nursing Education has raised the bar of excellence and we are truly honored by The George Washington University'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.

*"The George Washington University Department of Nursing Education produced Nurses on the Front Line: Preparing for and Responding to Emergencies and Disasters to*

address a critical gap in the nation's emergency preparedness," said Jean E. Johnson, PhD, FAAN, Project Director of The National Nurse Emergency Preparedness Initiative. "We are deeply appreciative of the contributions our colleagues in the field of nursing made to this endeavor, particular the expert review panels assembled by The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties and The American Association of Colleges of Nurses."

"When we received U.S. Department of Homeland Security funding to develop the NNEPI course, we set out to create a course that integrates rich media content and engaging interactive experiences to arm nurses with the knowledge, skills and abilities they need to think critically and respond effectively in unpredictable emergency situations," said Ellen M. Dawson, PhD, ANP, Chair of The Department of Nursing Education and Co-Director of The National Nurse Emergency Preparedness. "We feel confident that we achieved that goal and we are honored to be recognized by The U.S. Distance Learning Association for our contributions to the field."

Mr. Reggie Smith III, USDLA board member and chair of the awards committee, noted that, "We look forward to seeing how The George Washington University Department of Nursing Education 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 The George Washington University Department of Nursing Education**

The George Washington University Department of Nursing Education was established in 2004 and is an integral part of The George Washington University Medical Center. The George Washington University Medical Center is an internationally recognized interdisciplinary academic health center that has consistently provided high quality medical care in the Washington, DC metropolitan area for 176 years. The George Washington University Department of Nursing Education launched the first Doctor of Nursing Practice program in the nation's capital and offers eight graduate-level programs in the clinical, research and leadership fields. The Department of Nursing Education is accredited through the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. For more information about GW's nursing programs, click on "Nursing" at <http://www.gwumc.edu/healthsci/>.

#### **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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Phone: 202-994-3725 The NNEPI online course is available at <http://learning.nnepi.org>