



# PRESS RELEASE

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## NMC Announces 2005 Center of Excellence Award Recipients

The New Media Consortium (NMC), an international consortium of colleges, universities, and museums, today announced the recipients of the 2005 NMC Center of Excellence Award. The award, the highest honor bestowed by the NMC, recognizes demonstrated excellence and outstanding achievement in the application of technology to learning or creative expression.

Symbolized by a specially struck medallion suspended in a translucent obelisk, the Center of Excellence Award has been designed purposefully to make it distinct from other award or recognition programs. Colleges do not compete for the award, nor is it granted within predefined categories. The selection process is based on the MacArthur Awards, and like that program, the nominators and others involved in the selection process remain anonymous as a core principle of the program. They are chosen from organizations both within and outside the NMC, and represent a considerable diversity of knowledge.

"The Center of Excellence Awards celebrate the innovation and creativity that is part of the fabric of every member institution," said NMC CEO Larry Johnson. "The NMC colleges recognized this year represent the best of our field, and each has had a tremendous history of accomplishment."

The 2005 NMC Center of Excellence Award recipients are:

**California State University, Chico**

Academic Technologies

*Recognized for their creative, technical and artistic support of the campus community*

**The University of Texas at Austin**

Division of Instructional Innovation and Assessment

*Recognized for their systemic and comprehensive approaches to faculty support*

**Wesleyan University**

Information Technology Services

*Recognized for their exemplary approaches to the development of learning objects*

"The 2005 class of recipients represents the very best of the community of innovators that is the NMC, and each exemplifies the vision that brings us all together," noted Lev Gonick, chair of the NMC Board of Directors. "Individually and together, these three colleges exemplify the highest values of the NMC, and each has compiled a history of accomplishment that has helped set the standards in the application of new media forms to teaching, learning, and creative expression."

"The selection committee had a tremendous task and did their job well," Johnson stated at the Center of Excellence Awards ceremony at the NMC 2005 Summer Conference today. "The 2005 recipients are all acknowledged leaders in the application of technology by any standard. A group that includes schools large and small, the well-endowed and the not-so-well endowed, they represent the best of the NMC. Together and individually they exemplify the state of the art."

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q Who are the nominators?**

**A** The nominators are drawn from both academe and industry, and are not required to be NMC members. Each is a leader in his or her field. By prior agreement, the identity of the nominators is held in confidence.

**Q How are the selections made?**

**A** Once an institution is nominated, a set of information is put together to help the selection committee make its decisions. This information may be gleaned from the institution's web site, from conversations with knowledgeable persons, through interviews, or by other means. The information collected is reviewed by a selection committee that is charged with identifying from among the nominees the institutions most deserving of this recognition. The award is granted without regard to the size of an institution's staff or resources, and in a manner that ensures equal consideration to successful efforts large and small. By prior agreement, the identity of the members of the selection committee is held in confidence.

**Q What are the categories in which honorees are chosen?**

**A** Like other awards upon which this program is modeled, such as the MacArthur Awards, there are no predefined categories for selection.

## **Previous Center of Excellence Award Recipients**

Center for Creative Instruction, Medical College of Ohio  
Center for Distributed Learning, California State University System  
Digital Media Center, Johns Hopkins University  
Educational Technology Center, Northeastern University  
Educational Technology Services, University of California, Berkeley  
Information Technology Services, Carleton College  
Learning Commons, University of Calgary  
Los Angeles Digital Media Center, Pasadena City College  
Maricopa Center for Learning and Instruction, Maricopa Community Colleges  
Robinson Center for Graphics Arts and Communications Design, City College of New York  
The New Media Center, Kent State University



*The New Media Consortium (NMC) is an international 501(c)3 not-for-profit consortium of nearly 200 leading colleges, universities, and museums dedicated to the exploration and use of new media and new technologies. NMC member institutions are found in almost every state in the US, across Canada, and in Europe, Latin America, and Japan. Among the membership are many of the most highly regarded institutions in North America, as well as the country's leading state research universities, the nation's most outstanding community colleges, and a growing list of innovative museums.*

*The consortium serves as a catalyst for the development of new applications of technology to support learning and creative expression, and sponsors programs and activities designed to stimulate innovation, encourage collaboration, and recognize excellence among its member institutions. Through its many projects, its comprehensive web site, and its series of international conferences the NMC stimulates dialog and understanding through the exploration of promising ideas, technologies, and applications.*

For more information on the NMC, see its web site at [www.nmc.org](http://www.nmc.org)

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