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CILC ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2025-2026 PINNACLE AWARDS

Recognizing Highest-Rated Interactive Learning Programs

North Mankato, Minn. (August 1, 2026) — The Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) proudly announces the recipients of the **2025–2026 Pinnacle Awards**, recognizing the highest-rated live virtual learning programs delivered by museums, zoos, aquariums, cultural institutions, parks, science centers, historical organizations, performing arts organizations, and other educational experts from across the globe.

The annual Pinnacle Awards recognize CILC Content Providers whose live virtual programs consistently receive exceptional evaluations from educators, librarians, activity directors, and community leaders. Based on participant feedback, these programs demonstrate outstanding educational quality, meaningful learner engagement, and lasting impact.

“Every Pinnacle Award recipient demonstrates that meaningful learning isn't defined by a classroom or a building—it's defined by curiosity, engagement, and human connection,” said Allyson Mitchell, Director of Partnerships & Engagement at CILC. “Every one of these recipients is setting the standard for interactive learning experiences. Their programs connect learners with remarkable people, places, and ideas, creating experiences that continue to inspire long after the session ends.”

Established in 2008, the Pinnacle Awards have become one of CILC's most respected annual recognitions, celebrating organizations that continually raise the standard for interactive virtual education.

This year, Manhattan School of Music joins the Pinnacle Hall of Fame after earning its 10th consecutive Pinnacle Award. Since its inception, the Hall of Fame has recognized Content Providers that have demonstrated a decade of sustained excellence in live virtual programming. Chris Shade of Manhattan School of Music shared: “Being inducted into the CILC Hall of Fame is an incredible honor and a reflection of 30 years of pioneering distance learning at Manhattan School of Music. From our earliest interactive master classes to today’s low-latency global performances, we’ve remained committed to using technology to make world-class music education more accessible. We’re grateful to CILC for recognizing the faculty, staff, and artists whose passion has made that mission possible.”

This year CILC will induct an additional two Content Providers into its Hall of Fame to recognize 10 consecutive years of receiving the Pinnacle Award. Awards are announced each August to help online communities learn about high-quality live virtual programs that are available to help bring learning to life in any living, learning, or community space.

CILC 2025-2026 PINNACLE AWARD WINNERS

Actors Company
Add-A-Tudez Entertainment Company
Adventure in Medicine & Science (AIMS)
Alaska Zoo
Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum
Army Women's Museum
Author Valerie Marsh
Boonshoft Museum of Discovery
Buffalo Zoo
Center for Puppetry Arts
Cleveland Museum of Art
CMU Museum of Cultural & Natural History
DC Area National Parks and Partners
Denali Education Center
East Central Ohio Educational Service Center
Eisenhower Foundation/IKEducation
FASNY Museum of Firefighting
Fizzics Education (Australia)
Ford's Theatere
Great Basin National Park Foundation
Greenville Zoo
HistoryConnects from Virginia
Museum of History & Culture
Homestead National Historical Park
Inner Asian & Uralic National Resource Center
International Spy Museum
International Wolf Center
Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation
Jewel Cave National Monument
Joshua Tree National Park
Katmai National Park and Preserve
Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site
Lee Richardson Zoo
Long Island Science Center
Longwood Gardens
Manhattan School of Music
Mesa Verde National Park
Midwest Archeological Center - NPS
Mote Marine Laboratory
National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum
National Museum of the U.S. Army
National Park Service Fossils and Caves
Ohio History Connection
Oiada International
Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium
Panhandle Plains Historical Museum
Pro Football Hall of Fame
Rocky Mountain National Park
Royal Botanical Gardens (Canada)
Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology (Canada)
Science Centeral
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore
Smithsonian American Art Museum
Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery
Southeast Arizona National Parks
The BLM Campbell Creek Science Center
The Mariners' Museum
The Mob Museum
The National WWII Museum
Transcended Educational Collaborations
Wild Bird Adventures
Wind Cave National Park

Honorable Mentions

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Rosamond Gifford Zoo
The Toledo Zoo
Zion National Park

Hall of Fame Inductees

Longwood Gardens
Manhattan School of Music
The Mariners' Museum and Park

About The Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration
The Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to igniting a passion for learning to cultivate engaged, empowered, and valued lifelong learners, nurtured through access to compelling content and powerful learning experience from the most treasured institutions. Founded in 1994, CILC has developed hundreds of partnerships with organizations including museums, zoos, science, cultural, and historical centers and delivered 120,000 programs globally to 4 million students worldwide. CILC is committed to changing lives by making learning accessible, regardless of physical location or financial means. For more information about CILC, please visit cilc.org.

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