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Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration Awarded Second-Place Silver for Non-Profit Trendsetters in Distance Learning from USDLA, the Leader in Virtual Learning Education

North Mankato, Minn. (May 15, 2023) — The Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC), a nonprofit dedicated to igniting a passion for learning by expanding access to the world's most treasured museums, zoos, historic sites, experts, and more, announced today it has been named by the United States Distance Learning Association, known globally as USDLA, as a Silver Trendsetters winner in Distance Learning in the Nonprofit category.

Each year, USDLA recognizes innovators and leaders within the distance/digital learning industry as part of its International Award program. These highly coveted awards are presented annually to organizations and individuals who compete across several categories of excellence. The USDLA International Distance Learning Awards are created to acknowledge major accomplishments in distance learning and to highlight those virtual learning instructors, programs, and professionals who have achieved and demonstrated extraordinary achievements through the use of online learning techniques, innovation, and video delivery technologies globally.

“USDLA sets the standard for international distance learning education, and CILC is honored to receive such a prestigious award,” said Glenn Morris, CEO of CILC, Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration. “CILC has worked hard over the last year to level the playing field by providing equal access to museum, science, and cultural heritage centers to all learners – regardless of age, financial wellbeing, physical limitation, or geographical location.”

“The International Award program continues to provide prestigious recognition for educational

influencers around the world,” says Eric Jones, President of USDLA. “These award winners are truly leaders in the distance/digital learning industry and their work in support of pedagogy is unsurpassed.”

CILC programs offer students and adults anywhere the ability to take virtual field trips to institutions around the world, including museums, zoos, cultural, historical and scientific centers – creating an important bridge for underserved communities who might otherwise never have exposure to such environments, helping to widen their perspectives to better interact with the world around them. Studies show that virtual field trips are as impactful as in-person field trips, and years of research have found that field trips positively contribute to the development of children and adults by strengthening critical thinking skills, increasing historical empathy, heightening their interest to consume art and culture in the future, and staying cognitively stimulated.

About The United States Distance Learning Association

The United States Distance Learning Association was founded in 1987 and based on the premise of creating a powerful alliance to meet the burgeoning education and training needs of learning communities via new concepts of the fusion of communication technologies with learning in broad multidiscipline applications. We were the first nonprofit distance learning association in the United States to support distance learning research, development, and praxis across the complete arena of education, training, and communications. The learning communities that the USDLA addresses are: pre-K/12, higher education, continuing education, corporate training, military and government training, home schooling, and telehealth. Our mission is to support the development and application of digital and distance learning by focusing on legislation impacting the community and constituencies.

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 been a leader in the interactive virtual learning space before “remote learning” and “virtual experiences” were catchphrases. Over the years, CILC has developed hundreds of partnerships with organizations including museums, zoos, science, cultural, and historical centers and delivered 113,000 programs globally to 3.5 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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