



Excellence in Distance Education Awards

2007-2008

Call for Submissions

HONORARY FELLOWS OF COL
INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT
MATERIALS
LEARNING EXPERIENCE



COMMONWEALTH *of* LEARNING

Contacts

EDEA RECOGNISING INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT:

CHAIR: Dr. Willie Clarke-Okah, Education Specialist
(Higher Education & Policy Development)

c/o Ms. Ruvani Ameresekere | rameresekere@col.org | Tel. +1.604.775.8273

EDEA RECOGNISING DISTANCE EDUCATION MATERIALS:

CATEGORY A

CHAIR: Mr. Joshua Mallet, Education Specialist (Learning & Livelihoods)

c/o Ms. Patricia Schlicht | pschlicht@col.org | tel. +1.604.775.8227

CATEGORY B

CHAIR: Dr. Wayne Mackintosh, Education Specialist (eLearning & ICT Policy)

c/o Ms. Patricia Schlicht | pschlicht@col.org | tel. +1.604.775.8227

EDEA RECOGNISING DISTANCE LEARNING EXPERIENCE:

DEGREE GRANTING PROGRAMME

CHAIR: Ms. Frances Ferreira, Education Specialist
(Basic Education & Open Schooling)

c/o Ms. Carol Walker | cwalker@col.org | tel. +1.604.775.8232

eLEARNING EXPERIENCES IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

CHAIR: Ms. Angela Kwan, Learning Manager, International Organisations

c/o Ms. Carol Obure | cobure@col.org | tel. +1.604.775.8268

Commonwealth of Learning
1055 West Hastings, Suite 1200
Vancouver BC V6E 2E9
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Fax: +1.604.775.8210
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Entry Deadline 31 OCTOBER 2007

Message

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF COL

The Commonwealth of Learning is continuing the tradition of recognising and honouring excellence in distance education through awards to be presented during the Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (PCF5). The Forum will take place in London, U.K., from 13-17 July 2008. Since its inception as part of COL's tenth anniversary celebrations, the programme has honoured 27 individuals and 20 institutions. It has become a staple of the Pan-Commonwealth Forums on Open Learning where they are conferred.

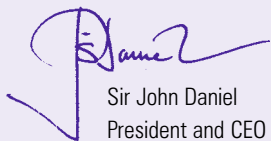
There are four categories of awards designed to recognise excellence: at the institutional level; in the development of learning materials; in student accomplishment and for a lifetime achievement in and contribution to open and distance learning.

I encourage our colleagues and friends in open and distance learning to submit nominations for the awards and to attend the Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning. The Forum is being jointly organised by COL and the University of London as part of its celebrations of 150 years of external studies, a seminal event in the development of distance learning worldwide.

PCF5 will explore how open and distance learning can help to achieve the international development goals and education for all. The conference theme is "Access to Learning for Development", with a focus on four key areas:

- Governance, conflict and social justice
- Health
- Livelihoods
- Provision for children and young people

The Forum's website is www.col.org/pcf5



Sir John Daniel
President and CEO

**DISTANCE LEARNING EXPERIENCE AWARD
RECIPIENTS (2006)**



Honorary Fellows ^{OF COL}

The designation of Honorary Fellow of COL recognises outstanding individual contributions to distance education in such areas as: leadership/service, published works (including courseware), lectures/presentations, international/national presence and mentorship.

Consideration is normally limited to citizens of Commonwealth countries and designations are for life.

COL does not seek nominations for this award.



HONORARY FELLOWS OF COL (2006)

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR

Institutional ACHIEVEMENT

COL will present up to three awards for institutional excellence. The awards recognise significant institutional achievements in the innovative and effective application of learning technologies and open and distance learning (ODL) methodologies to reach students who might otherwise not have participated in the learning or training experience.

Submissions are invited from publicly funded or not-for-profit organisations and institutions in the Commonwealth that offer courses through ODL. They will be judged on the following criteria:

- Significant institutional achievement, quality of courses and programmes offered;
- Effectiveness of course materials and learner support system;
- Effective use of appropriate technology;
- Outreach to remote, rural and marginalised communities; and
- Relevance of programmes to the Millennium Development Goals, Education for All and Commonwealth objectives (peace, democracy, equality and good governance).

Submissions must include:

- A statement of no more than 1000 words describing the achievements of the organisation/institution and how these relate to the themes of the Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning;
- An abstract of the statement in no more than 150 words;
- A description of the course material development process;
- A description of the learner support system; and
- A supporting letter from the chief executive officer of the submitting organisation/institution.

Submissions should be sent to:

Ms. Ruvani Ameresekere at COL (email: rameresekere@col.org, tel. +1.604.775.8273, fax: +1.604.775.8210) on or before the entry deadline of 31 October 2007. State clearly on your submission that it is for the "Award of Excellence for Institutional Achievement".

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION **Materials**

There are two categories of awards for recognition of excellence in distance education materials produced by publicly funded or not-for-profit institutions/organisations in Commonwealth countries:

- **Category A:** print or other “low-end” media materials, such as audio/video tapes, or a combination of these
- **Category B:** interactive, electronically delivered materials, which may be supplemented by materials developed in other media

COL will present up to three awards in each category. The materials may be in any language used in the Commonwealth; however, an English version of the material should be available for evaluation. The materials for Category A should be primarily print, audio/video or broadcast-based materials (or a combination), while the materials for Category B should be digital, interactive and delivered through CDs or a Web site.

To enter materials for consideration of this award, you should:

- Follow the guidelines carefully and provide the information requested in the *pro forma*, which can be downloaded in PDF format at www.col.org/ede or contact Ms. Patricia Schlicht at COL;
- Include a supporting letter from your Chief Executive Officer endorsing the submission and verifying that the institution/organisation is publicly funded or not-for-profit; and
- Submit sample materials (not more than two print modules/CDs/audio-video cassettes) or the address for the Web site (along with clear instructions on how to access sample materials) together with your application.

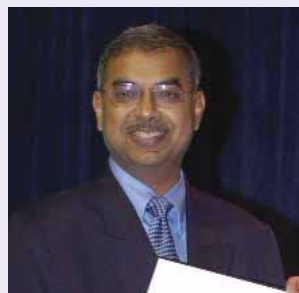
COL judges will use the sample materials and the completed submission as per the requirements outlined in the *pro forma* to draw up a list of materials to be examined in

detail. Those short-listed will be requested to send a complete set of materials, or instructions on how to access a complete set electronically.

Submissions should be sent to:

Ms. Patricia Schlicht at COL (email: pschlicht@col.org, tel: +1.604.775.8227, fax: +1.604.775.8210) on or before the entry deadline of 31 October 2007.

Please state clearly on your submission that it is for the “Award of Excellence for Distance Education Materials – Category (A or B)”.



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR DISTANCE EDUCATION MATERIALS (2006)

AWARD RECOGNISING DISTANCE

Learning Experience

COL will present two awards for excellence in a distance learning experience, the first recognising distance learning experience in a degree granting programme and the second recognising an eLearning experience in difficult circumstances.

In recognition of the winning submission, the learner will be provided with:

- A return air-ticket (most economical fare) to the Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning in London; and
- The Forum registration fee, accommodation and meals.

AWARD FOR DISTANCE LEARNING EXPERIENCE IN A DEGREE GRANTING PROGRAMME

This award was developed to provide a forum for the expression of student experience in learning through distance education. Submissions are invited that describe a notable distance education learning experience. Eligibility is limited to citizens of Commonwealth countries.

Submissions may be made by a) educational institutions that deliver programmes directly to students, b) programme administrator/tutor, or c) students themselves, and must include:

- No more than 500 words explaining what made the distance learning experience notable, its value to the learner and to the wider community;
- A completed Learner Profile Questionnaire which can be downloaded in PDF format at www.col.org/ede or contact Ms. Carol Walker at COL;
- If the application is made by the students themselves, the submission must include a supporting letter from the Chief Executive Officer of the organisation/institution endorsing the submission; and
- A copy of official transcripts.

Submissions should be sent to:

Ms. Carol Walker at COL (email: cwalker@col.org, tel: +1.604.775.8232, fax: +1.604.775.8210) on or before the entry deadline of 31 October 2007. State clearly on your submission that it is for the “Award of Excellence for Distance Learning Experience”.

AWARD FOR AN eLEARNING EXPERIENCE IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

This award for an eLearning experience under difficult circumstances is designed to provide a forum for the acknowledgement of eLearning experience of learners from international organisations who have completed the COL developed and delivered workplace eLearning courses. Submissions will describe how undertaking the course has enabled learners to overcome training constraints normally present when working in areas of conflict, natural disasters, pandemics etc. and/or from belonging to a highly mobile workforce. Submissions will also specify performance improvement gains to the learner and to the organisation.

Eligibility: Learners who have recently completed one of the *Writing Effectively* courses that COL has developed for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Health Organization (WHO), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the International Federation for the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank. Eligible learners must have been participants of a training session conducted between 1 July 2005 and 31 October 2007.

All eligible learners (both English and French) are invited to apply. Submissions must be made by learners themselves and must include the completed Learner Profile Questionnaire which can be downloaded at www.col.org/ede or contact Ms. Carol Obure at COL.

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Submissions will be evaluated on the following criteria:

- Successful completion of one of the COL offered eLearning courses;
- Success in overcoming training constraints in difficult conditions; and
- The impact of the learning outcomes on the learner and the organisation.

Submissions should be sent to:

Ms. Carol Obure at COL (email: cobure@col.org, tel: +1.604.775.8268, fax: +1.604.775.8210) on or before the entry deadline of 31 October 2007. State clearly on your submission that it is for the “Award of Excellence for eLearning Experience in Difficult Circumstances”.



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR INSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENT (2006)

JUDGING, ANNOUNCEMENTS & AWARDS

1. The President of COL will appoint a three-member judging panel for each award category. Only one of the three adjudicators will be a member of the Staff or Board of COL.
2. Only complete entries will be considered by the judging panels.
3. The panels reserve the right not to make awards in one or more categories and will not exceed the maximum number of awards stated for each category.
4. Except for the award recipients, no prior notification of the adjudication results will be made.
5. The judging panels' decisions will be final and no correspondence will be entered into regarding the selection process. Appeals will not be entertained.
6. All submissions (including courseware) for consideration by the judging panel will not be returned. They will be kept by COL as exemplars of good practice.
7. COL reserves the right to demonstrate the materials selected for an award with due acknowledgement to the organisations/institutions.
8. We regret that we will not be able to respond to requests on the status of your submission.
9. COL will not normally cover travel and accommodation costs for attendance at the Forum and presentation ceremony, except for the recipients of the Distance Learning Experience Awards.
10. The awards will be presented at the Fifth Pan-Commonwealth Forum on Open Learning (London, 13-17 July 2008) www.col.org/pcf5.

The Commonwealth of Learning (COL) is an intergovernmental organisation created by Commonwealth Heads of Government to encourage the development of open learning and distance education, through the fostering and sharing of knowledge, resources and technologies.

Headquartered in Vancouver, Canada, COL is the world's only intergovernmental organisation dedicated solely to promoting and delivering distance education and open learning, and is the only official Commonwealth agency located outside Britain.

Mandated to be in the vanguard of technological change in education and training, COL and its international network of partner organisations have helped the Commonwealth's 53 member nations and their citizens realise widespread access to quality, current education and training for close to 20 years. Fully operational since 1989, COL is financially supported by Commonwealth governments on a voluntary basis. It responds to Commonwealth needs through in-country and regional programmes and initiatives.

Commonwealth of Learning
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WEB: www.col.org
www.col.org/edea
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Please
do not forget to
mark clearly which award
category you are sending a
submission for and forward
to the appropriate contact.