



## Looking Back at 2024 and Full Speed Ahead to 2025

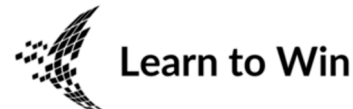
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### A Year of Change and Growth

The 2024 calendar year brought about many changes for the Federal Government Distance Learning Association. Through changes and the addition of new board members and sponsors, our nonprofit professional association has remained dedicated to promoting the development and application of distance learning in the Federal Government. Through our webinars, conference attendance and participation, and award ceremony, FGDLA is committed to actively fostering collaboration, understanding, and support among those involved in leveraging technology and instructional media for the education and training needs of the Federal Government. As we reflect on our accomplishments in 2024, we look forward to enhancing member interaction and offerings. In these challenging times for Federal Government employees, FGDLA would like to provide our members with resources to support distance learning development and career enhancement within your organization.

### Sponsors

As a nonprofit organization, we are dependent on our sponsors to help us continue our efforts and support our members by providing no-cost membership. We are incredibly grateful for the renewed sponsorship from [Moodle](#), and the new sponsorship from [CoSo Cloud](#) and [Learn to Win](#). On behalf of the membership and the Board of Directors, the FGDLA would like to extend our sincerest appreciation for the support provided by the sponsors. We are also grateful for the ongoing support from Adobe.



### Membership

FGDLA welcomed close to 25 new members in 2024 and 2025. We hope to continue to increase our membership. We need your help! What would you like to see from FGDLA? How would you like to be involved? Please complete our [survey](#) and help us, help you!

### Board Members

The Board of Directors is composed of highly qualified volunteers who are committed to embracing innovative methods of integrating instructional technologies to meet the training and education needs of the Federal Government. This year, we were grateful to add [Rob Porter](#) as our Chairperson for the Business Development and Marketing Committee, [John DeFonzo](#) as our Chairperson for the Learning Technologies Committee, and [Charlie Schoenberger](#) as our Chairperson for the Board of Advisors.

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## Awards

The FGDLA awards are an exciting opportunity to recognize outstanding achievements in the Federal Government's distance learning arena. We understand that awards are meaningful and can have an impact on individual morale and overall organizational achievement, so we thank everyone who nominated this past year's awardees.

It is important to understand that when employees are recognized, they experience a sense of pride and a stronger connection to their work. This boosts engagement and encourages a cycle of positive acts that can inspire others to follow suit. This is why we know it is vital not just to distribute awards, but also to host a ceremony where others can be inspired and motivated to further the growth and enhancement of distributed learning. FGDLA is eager to help build a culture where people feel genuinely valued and motivated to excel. This year, the FGDLA presented nine awards, which included six organizational awards and three individual awards.

### Individual Awards

The **Hall of Fame** award is given in recognition of an individual who has made significant contributions in promoting and developing distance learning in the Federal Government. The distinguished award was given to **Rick Gividen** of the Federal Wildland Fire Workforce Development Program, Office of Wildland Fire, U.S. Department of Interior, for his significant career accomplishments in promoting and developing distance learning in the Federal Government for the past 25 years.

The **Pioneer** award is given in recognition of an individual for demonstrating initiative and leadership in the development and implementation of distance learning in the Federal Government. We had two recipients of this award: **Scott Tanner** and **Michelle Finney**. Scott is an Instructional Systems Specialist working with the Veterans Benefits Association. He received the award for his efforts in developing an innovative Media Selection Model used to determine the best media to meet VBA's training content development has led to significant resource savings. Michelle is a Human Resources Development Supervisor for the Western States Network Consortium with the Department of Veterans Affairs. She received the award for outstanding achievement in implementing an innovative Learning Management System (LMS).

### Organizational Awards

The **Five-Star** award is given in recognition of an organization for demonstrating excellence in providing enterprise-wide distance learning solutions for the Federal Government. This year, there were two recipients of the award. The **National Training Delivery Team, Workforce Development Training and Education, U.S. Forest Service** received the award for the team's adaptation of the delivery method of two courses integrating asynchronous and synchronous distance learning technologies. The **Interagency Security Committee, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security** also received the award for the committee's continued use of virtual instructor-led training in leveling technology to deliver a hybrid live, interactive session remotely.

The **Innovation** award is given in recognition of an organization for demonstrating leadership in the development of emerging distance learning technologies providing enterprise-wide solutions for the Federal Government. Three organizations received this award this year. The **Pacific West Region Office of Fire and Aviation Management, National Park Service** received this award for integrating distance learning technologies,

for trained Resource Advisors (READs), which increased the number of qualified READs, despite budget and travel constraints. The **Homerun Team, Training and Evaluation Branch of FAA Academy** received this award for their development of innovative multimedia techniques that supplemented the train-the-trainer courses delivered at the FAA Academy. The **Center for Development of Security Excellence (CDSE)** received this award for their development of a solution that allowed for centralized production and maintenance of courseware while providing decentralized administration of completion tracking at the level of DoD enterprise through a unique Learning Management System.

The **Pillar** award is given in recognition for outstanding service or significant contribution to the FGDLA by an organization not affiliated with the Federal Government. The **Zoom Customer Success Team** assigned to the US Federal Government Departments and Agencies was the recipient of this award for their empowering support to Federal Government Customers in conducting hundreds of effective virtual learning events.

## Conferences



The Federal Government Distance Learning Association was proud to be a media partner for the 2024 DevLearn Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada on 6 - 7 November. DevLearn is North America's Largest Learning Technologies Event and FGDLA was proud to participate in its 20th Anniversary. With over 200 world-class sessions and 175+ exhibitors, it was an awesome experience for L&D professionals, training managers, instructional designers, and HR professionals. Nearly 4,000 attendees had the opportunity to network, explore learning technologies, and learn about the latest tools and strategies.

In addition to the media partnership at the conference, our Business Development & Marketing Chair, Rob Porter, hosted a Featured Panel: Measuring and Demonstrating the ROI of Government Training Programs, with FGDLA members: Dr. Erika Jacobs, Rick Gividen, Sandy Wagner, and Maj James Hughes.



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## Webinars

The FGDLA hosted 13 webinars in 2024.

### January 23, 2024

*FGDLA Membership meeting*

Host: Dr. Erika Jacobs, FGDLA President.

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### March 13, 2024

*Accessibility in the Digital Workplace Workshop*

Presenters: Helen Chamberlain FGDLA Secretary and Russ Colbert FGDLA Vice President, Corporate Sector

YouTube - <https://youtu.be/FRjZrH7D0wM>

### April 17, 2024

*Gamified Learning Design Using Generative AI*

Presenter: Dr. Jenny Varrichio FGDLA Publications Committee Chair

YouTube - <https://youtu.be/o75KTgSyLx4>

### May 15, 2024

*Using Adobe Creative Suite for Developing Distance Learning*

Presenter: Alvin Lawrence Director of Learning Experience Design, Diamond Information Systems

YouTube - [https://youtu.be/2eu0Xj\\_lIA](https://youtu.be/2eu0Xj_lIA)

### June 26, 2024

*Creating a Virtual Learning Environment: Lessons Learned from U.S. Marine Corps*

Presenter: Dr. Erika Jacobs Deputy Director and Capabilities Support Branch Head in the Educational Technology Department, Marine Corps University; Daniel Mozer Collaboration Specialist, Evolve Media

YouTube - <https://youtu.be/1II1AGHION8>

### July 17, 2024

*Accelerating Navy Learning with Mobile VR and Handheld Gaming PCs Onboard Ships*

Presenter: Dr. Anders Gronstedt, President, The Gronstedt Group

YouTube - [https://youtu.be/Q3kU0u\\_jyFc](https://youtu.be/Q3kU0u_jyFc)

### August 14, 2024

*DoD and Responsible AI (RAI)*

Presenter: Tara Schendel | Academic Advisor | Informational Technology Defense Language Institute

YouTube - <https://youtu.be/her3WqEonNs>

### September 18, 2024

*Making Presentation Creation Easier with Copilot for PowerPoint*

Presenter: Ellen Finkelstein, Microsoft PowerPoint Most Valuable Professional

YouTube - <https://youtu.be/g61vbOmgIN8>

### September 25, 2024

*Preview to Cracking the Code: Measuring and Demonstrating the ROI of Government Training Programs*

Host: Rob Porter, Head of Market Business Development, CoSo Cloud, eLearning Solutions. Panelists: David Kelly, Chairman, The Learning Guild; Dr. Erika Jacobs, Instructional Specialist, Marine Corps University; Sandy Wagner, Assoc. Professor,

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DLI Foreign Language Center

YouTube - [https://youtu.be/52SIHb\\_CIZA](https://youtu.be/52SIHb_CIZA)

**October 16, 2024**

*Gamified Learning Design Using Generative AI*

Moderated by: Dr. Jenny Varrichio | FGDLA Publications Committee Chair

YouTube - <https://youtu.be/hluUnggl5MM>

**November 13, 2024**

*Building A Winning Webinar Program*

Presenter: Brenda Sedlacek, Center Director, User Experience Directorate, DAU

YouTube - <https://youtu.be/gxjl0965wOE>

**December 4, 2024**

*FGDLA Awards*

Host: Dr. Carla Lane, FGDLA Vice President Higher Education Sector

[https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/YKDpnFiAfdhMDNV90V--ZMatEdmh5\\_jGdKJQU199jHRIDYM3ogFOaoaOPEDTgX-V.WN41\\_1k4is-6iqzy](https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/YKDpnFiAfdhMDNV90V--ZMatEdmh5_jGdKJQU199jHRIDYM3ogFOaoaOPEDTgX-V.WN41_1k4is-6iqzy)

**December 11, 2024**

*Enhancing Mission Quality Training: The Impact of Learn to Win's Mobile-First Training platform in the DoD*

Presenter: John M. DeFonzo, Manager, Defense Channels Program

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