



## **About Blackboard Catalyst Awards**

For over a decade, the Blackboard Catalyst Awards have annually recognized and honored innovation and excellence in the Blackboard global community of practice, where millions of teachers and learners work every day to redefine what is possible when leveraging technology.

Blackboard is focused on highlighting client successes and raising awareness throughout the educational industry by celebrating client achievements and milestones. Our community centers on educators and administrators who are passionate about using technology in education and collaborating on best practices. The Blackboard Catalyst Awards are an opportunity to celebrate these accomplishments and help raise standard for the entire community.

The Blackboard Catalyst Awards include six award categories this year:

### **THE EXEMPLARY COURSE AWARD**

The Exemplary Course Award recognizes faculty and course designers from schools, colleges, and universities around the world who develop exciting and innovative courses that represent the very best in technology and learning. During its history, the Exemplary Course Program has provided a significant benefit in the form of the examples provided by winners and finalists; detailed peer review and feedback provided to participating teams and instructors; the Exemplary Course Rubric which arms instructors with the knowledge and tools necessary to better evaluate and improve their own courses; and the inspiration to collaborate and innovate within and across institutions on new ideas and tools for teaching and learning. The Exemplary Course Award honors courses demonstrating excellence in four areas:

- **Course Design:** the elements of instructional design in an online course, such as its structure, learning objectives, and instructional strategies.
- **Interaction and Collaboration:** the level of engagement offered by the course and the level of student interaction and collaboration taking place within an online environment.
- **Assessment:** the evaluation of student work toward the achievement of learning outcomes and the quality and type of student assessments within the course.
- **Learner Support:** the resources made available to students as a part of an online course, which may be accessible within or external to the course environment.

### **THE COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AWARD**

The Community Collaboration Award recognizes those who share advice, insight, and best practices with others as they approach key challenges and opportunities when leveraging technology in the educational environment. These outstanding leaders have gone beyond the call of duty and reached out past the borders of their own institutions to create and maintain programs spanning multiple institutions and regions. These members have thought of innovative ways to get other members engaged and have created compelling content to share with the entire Blackboard client base.

### **THE INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT AWARD**

The Innovative Development Award rewards those who give back to the community by sharing their expertise and providing meaningful contributions to the Blackboard developer community. Winners of this award have made significant contributions to the Edugarage site, worked on Building Blocks and PowerLinks, and collaborated with Blackboard on a more open platform.

### **THE STAFF DEVELOPMENT AWARD**

The Staff Development Award honors those who use Blackboard solutions to support and enhance faculty and staff development skills that provide a better organization-wide learning experience. This focus on professional development is a great approach institutions can take and push with their e-Learning programs to the next level and improve the knowledge of their staff.

### **THE COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY AWARD**

The Communications Strategy award honors those who use one or more Blackboard tools to support teaching and learning or campus engagement with innovative communications strategies. Honorees are recognized for programs that go beyond the expected to reach the right audience with the right message and channel. Award recipients will have demonstrated results that have driven student success through improved grades/ scores, increased attendance or retention, or stronger stakeholder engagement.

### **THE MOBILE INNOVATION AWARD**

The Mobile Innovation Award is a new category this year. Created due to the rapid growth of mobile technology in education over the past year, the category is broken down into two subcategories: (1) Leadership in Mobile Teaching; and (2) Learning and Excellence in Mobile Application Development for Campus Services. Winners have committed themselves to formalizing, implementing and measuring the impact of mobile learning at their organizations and/or creating a truly unique campus service via a mobile platform.

For more on the Blackboard Catalyst Awards, please visit our client awards website at:

<http://www.blackboard.com/catalyst>.

“The Blackboard Catalyst Awards serve as an opportunity to showcase industry best practices. With thousands of institutions and millions of students using Blackboard’s teaching and learning solutions every day, it is important for us to provide a forum where our global community can share knowledge and collaborate on ways to advance each unique Blackboard implementation. We congratulate all award winners and celebrate their accomplishments.”

***Ray Henderson, President, Blackboard Learn***