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## **OPENCOURSEWARE NAMED 'BEST OF WEB' BY DIGITAL EDUCATION CENTER**

*OCW recognized as innovative, leading higher education Web site*

**FOLSOM, CA (September 30, 2004)** — MIT OpenCourseWare was among more than 40 of the best and most innovative K-12 and Higher Education Web sites and online applications recognized by the Center for Digital Education in its 2004 Best of the Web (BOW) contest and Digital Education Achievement Awards (DEAA).

In its third year, the BOW evaluates Higher Education, K-12 state and K-12 district Web sites on their innovation, Web-based delivery of public services, efficiency, economy, and functionality for improved student and faculty access. The DEAA grades state district and school online applications and projects based on enhanced interactions, transactions and/or services.

"The review process this year was a difficult, but exciting project," said Marina Leight, director of the Center for Digital Education. "It's clear that the Web world in education has come of age and that it's no longer a question of static versus functionality. The defining features are more subtle and have to do with who the Web site is serving and how. Of primary importance in the education sector is how is it serving the student?"

MIT OpenCourseWare (MIT OCW) was among the winners in the Integrated/Multi-Focus Application (education) category, along with:

- **Ask a Biologist**, Arizona State University (<http://askbiologist.asu.edu>)
- **Electronic Student Career Portfolios-CUNY**, New York City College of Technology, N.Y. (<http://eportfolio.citytech.cuny.edu>)
- **Instructional Center-Plano ISD**, Plano Independent School District, Texas (<http://k-12.pisd.edu>)
- **Utopia-University of Texas at Austin** (<http://utopia.utexas.edu>)

"We are honored that MIT OCW has been recognized by the Center for Digital Education," said Anne H. Margulies, executive director of the MIT OCW project. "We'd like to thank our partners, the Sapient Corp., and our foundation funders, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Andrew Mellon Foundation. for their support in helping us publish 900 courses to the MIT OCW site. But most importantly, we would like to thank the MIT Faculty for their support of this initiative. MIT OCW is first and foremost about the educational content available on our site, and that content belongs to MIT's remarkable faculty. Without their support, we would not have been able to publish a site worthy of the recognition of this prestigious 'Best of Web' honor."

The top BOW winners in the Higher Education Web site category are:

- **1<sup>st</sup> Place (tie):** Lehigh University, Pennsylvania ([www.lehigh.edu](http://www.lehigh.edu))
- **1<sup>st</sup> Place (tie):** North Shore Community College (<http://pipeline.northshore.edu>), Massachusetts
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place:** North Orange County Community College, California ([www.sce.cc.ca.us](http://www.sce.cc.ca.us))



- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place:** University of Texas at Dallas, Texas ([www.utdallas.edu](http://www.utdallas.edu))
- **4<sup>th</sup> Place:** College of DuPage, Illinois ([www.cod.edu](http://www.cod.edu))
- **5<sup>th</sup> Place:** Excelsior College, New York ([www.excelsior.edu](http://www.excelsior.edu))

MIT OCW, a large-scale, Web-based publication of MIT faculty's course materials, enables the open sharing of the faculty's materials and pedagogy with educators and learners around the world in a way that befits MIT's reputation as a leading institute of world-class teaching and research. Available at <http://ocw.mit.edu/>, this initiative connects visitors with the syllabi, lecture notes, and calendars of 914 courses. In addition, most course sites include a subset of other materials such as multimedia simulations, problem sets and solutions, past exams, reading lists, sample MIT student projects, and a selection of video lectures.

Educators are encouraged to utilize the materials for curriculum development, and self-learners and students may draw upon the materials for self-study or supplementary use. Course materials contained on the MIT OCW Web site may be used, copied, distributed, translated, and modified by anyone, anywhere in the world. All that is required of adopters of the materials is that the use be non-commercial, that the original MIT faculty authors receive attribution if the materials are republished or reposted online, and that adapters openly share the materials in the same manner as MIT OCW.

#### ***About the Center for Digital Education***

The Center for Digital Education is a national research and advisory institute on K-12 and Higher Education technology. The Center is a business division of e.Republic, which publishes Converge Online, Government Technology and Public CIO. This year's BOW and DEAA programs are sponsored by VeriSign.

#### ***About MIT OpenCourseWare***

MIT OCW makes the educational materials that are used in the teaching of almost all MIT undergraduate and graduate courses taught in the Institute's five schools—the Schools of Architecture and Planning; Engineering; Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences; Science; and the Sloan School of Management—available on the Web, free of charge, to any user anywhere in the world. This venture continues the tradition at MIT, and in American higher education, of open dissemination of educational materials, philosophy, and modes of thought. See MIT OCW on the Web at <http://ocw.mit.edu/>.

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