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DIGITAL PROMISE & EDSURGE ANNOUNCE WINNERS OF THE 2015 DIGITAL INNOVATION IN LEARNING AWARDS

SAN FRANCISCO, CA—[EdSurge](#) and [Digital Promise](#) are thrilled to announce the winners of the second annual “[Digital Innovation in Learning Awards](#),” or DILAs. The awards celebrate teachers, administrators, and organizations that demonstrate exemplary practices in using technology to support learning.

After receiving more than 400 video submissions from the U.S. and 39 other countries, the [panel of DILAs judges](#) chose winners across 15 award categories. Judges selected those whose submissions most closely fit the criteria for each of the award using the [DILAs rubric](#).

“Wow! Educators and entrepreneurs are putting amazing practices to work. This year’s collection of standouts charmed and amazed us all!” said Betsy Corcoran, CEO of EdSurge.

“With the DILAs, we are seeking to showcase excellence and raise the bar for teaching, leadership and for the development of products and services,” said Karen Cator, CEO of Digital Promise, “and the submissions for the second year didn’t disappoint!”

Each winner created a three-minute video, all of which are available [here](#). In addition, EdSurge and Digital Promise are proud to present [playlists](#) of the winner and Honorable Mention videos in each category (educators, administrators, and organizations).

To celebrate the winners, on November 20, 2015, Digital Promise and EdSurge will co-host the Digital Innovation in Learning Awards Gala at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, Calif. [Tickets for the event are available here](#). The keynote speaker will be Marco Torres, professional storyteller and educator, and current Director of Story at Digital Promise.

Information about the Digital Innovation in Learning Awards Gala are available on the awards site (dilas.org). Tickets to and sponsorship for the gala [can be purchased here](#). This year’s winners are representative of countless other people who are working to improve opportunities for learning. Esther Wojcicki, one of the 2015 DILAs judges, wrote to us during the process: “I really don’t know how to pick... In fact, if all schools and all districts did what these people are doing there would be no education issues in the U.S.” (And, we dare say, the world! We received submissions from 39 countries this year.)

To celebrate the winners, on November 20, 2015, Digital Promise and EdSurge will co-host the Digital Innovation in Learning Awards Gala at the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, Calif. [Join us!](#) The awards program and gala are made possible by our sponsors, [CK12](#), [Curriculum Associates](#), [McGraw Hill Education](#), [Qualcomm Education, Inc.](#), [Scholastic](#), and [TES Global](#).

Congratulations to the 16 winners and to everyone else who participated in the DILAs this year!

Below is a full list of the 2015 DILAs winners:

Category	Award	Description	Winner (Video attached)
<i>Educator</i>	Busting Boundaries	Inspires students to work in-person or virtually with peers in different geographic or cultural communities	Katherine Mussachio (International Connections Academy, Lockport, NY)
	Parents as Partners	Engages parents and caregivers in creative ways to support student learning in and outside the classroom	Benjamin Gaines (Rancho Minerva Middle School, Vista, CA)
	Creative Director	Leads students in producing creative, high-quality, relevant, substantive multimedia projects	Dyke Redmond (Heart & Soul Design Communications Center, Inglewood, CA)
	Sharing is Caring	Shares resources freely with peers and professional communities, actively contributes to a community of practice, and continuously evolves a personal learning network	Kasey Bell (Region 10 ESC, McKinney, TX)
	Teacher Trailblazer	Employs an audacious idea in order to empower students with the opportunity to learn	Julia Winter (Detroit Country Day School, Bloomfield, MI)
<i>Administrator</i>	Administrator Trailblazer	Employs an audacious idea in order to empower teachers and students with the opportunity to learn school- or system-wide	Grant Smith (Avondale Elementary School District, Avondale, AZ)
	Open Door Policy	Shares what's working and what's not with other schools, makes visits and welcomes visitors, facilitates open collaboration between charters and district schools, and publishes resources for free public use	S. Dallas Dance (Baltimore County Public Schools, Towson, MD)
	Power to the People	Empowers teachers, students and other administrators to take on leadership roles and participate actively in system-wide innovation	Roger Cook (Taylor County School District, Campbellsville, KY) and Steven Dunlap (Riverside Unified School District, Riverside, CA)
	Learning Ninja	Expands the concept of the library and/or the role of the librarian or media specialist to harness the vast resources of the internet to support teachers and students	Todd Keruskin (Elizabeth Forward School District, Elizabeth, PA)
	Savvy Spaces	Intentionally designs and implements learning spaces to support collaboration and interaction	Brad Gustafson (Wayzata Public Schools, Plymouth, MN)

<i>Organization</i>	Better Together	Includes various users and stakeholders in product/initiative design, implementation, and feedback mechanisms for continuous improvement	Mozilla Hive Chicago (Chicago, IL)
	Global Exchange	Empowers users with opportunities for meaningful collaboration with other learners around the world	Global Nomads Group (New York, NY)
	Learn Everywhere	Supports adult learning through community and cultural resources, technology, and/or open platforms to enable learning anytime and anywhere	Mission Graduates: Latina Tech Mentor Program (San Francisco, CA)
	Mindful Data	Manages, translates and delivers data to users in a manner that is understandable and actionable while maintaining security and clear, understandable privacy policies	Alma (Portland, OR)
	Research @ Work	Thoughtfully incorporates research on learning to shape development of a product or initiative	Kidaptive, Inc. (Mountain View, CA)

About EdSurge

[EdSurge is the go-to site for news and resources](#) on education technology. The EdSurge Edtech Index lists more than 1,500 edtech products; [EdSurge Summits](#) bring together teachers and entrepreneurs to explore and try out edtech tools to support learning.

About Digital Promise

[Digital Promise](#) is a nonprofit organization authorized by Congress to spur innovation in education in order to improve the opportunity to learn for all Americans. Through its work with educators, entrepreneurs, researchers, and leading thinkers, Digital Promise supports a comprehensive agenda to benefit lifelong learning and provide Americans with the knowledge and skills needed to compete in the global economy.