

MET and BU Honored for Excellence in Online Education



Director of Distance Education Nancy Coleman accepts the award for Institution-Wide Online Education with Associate Director of Distance Education Eric Friedman (far left) and Proctored Exams Coordinator Thomas Adams Martin (second from left).

AT ITS SIXTEENTH annual international conference in November, the Sloan Consortium honored Boston University for Excellence in Institution-Wide Online Education. The Sloan Consortium is the leading professional organization for online teaching and learning, with the stated mission of leading efforts to integrate online education into the mainstream of higher education—and in so doing, improving the quality, scale, and breadth of education.

All of Boston University’s online education is designed, implemented, and supported through the efforts of a dynamo staff of twenty-two that comprises MET’s Distance Education team. This group of instructional designers, student services coordinators, technical producers, and administrators delivers programming to the 2,500 students from all 50 states and 44 countries who currently study online at BU. They work with faculty and staff from MET, the College of Communication, the College of Fine Arts, the College of Engineering, Sargent College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences, the College of Arts & Sciences, the School of Medicine, and the School of Education to produce programs in areas as diverse as health communication, manufacturing engineering, occupational therapy, criminal justice, management, computer information systems, and music education.

Dr. Burks Oakley II, chair of the Sloan Consortium Awards Committee, commented that “The 2010 recipients all have

demonstrated exceptional leadership and real success in advancing online education.”

Dean Halfond extended congratulations to the entire BU community, including the faculty members who work with Distance Education for long hours to create courses and programs worthy of the BU name. “This is an especially meaningful public recognition to receive, and it reinforces the excellent contributions that so many make to this enterprise” he said. “It is particularly gratifying to realize and celebrate just how far we have come since we launched our first fully online degree program in 2002.”

A number of features distinguish the unique BU model for online education, including a commitment to offering full degree programs online that feature a high level of faculty involvement, instructional design support, and student engagement and interaction—along with an international outreach effort that draws high-caliber, mature students to online programs at BU.

“We’re thrilled to be a recipient of this award because it validates how hard we’ve worked to implement high standards,” said Director of Distance Education Nancy Coleman. “It rewards the efforts that our faculty and staff have put into building quality online programs.” **M**

Read More about BU’s Sloan Award at: bu.edu/today/node/11648.

