

UIS wins award for online education excellence

THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

Posted Oct 19, 2008 @ 03:51 PM

The University of Illinois at Springfield is among nine universities to win 2008 awards from a national consortium for excellence in online education.

UIS is recipient of the 2008 Ralph E. Gomory Award for Quality Online Education from the Sloan Consortium. The award recognizes UIS' innovative work in using quantitative data in a process of continuous quality improvement to assure excellence in online teaching and learning.

"This inaugural award is one of the highest honors to be granted by the Sloan Consortium," said Ray Schroeder, director of UIS' Office of Technology-Enhanced Learning. "It recognizes the quality and leadership of our online program among the consortium's nearly 1,500 member institutions."

Schroeder said the university was especially honored to receive the award named after the recently retired president of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Ralph Gomory.

"The support of Dr. Gomory and the foundation have been invaluable in helping UIS become a national leader in the quality, scale and breadth of online learning that it provides," Schroeder said.

In 2007, UIS won the national award for Excellence in Institution-Wide Online Teaching & Learning Programming from the Sloan Consortium. In 2002, the consortium awarded Schroeder the Most Outstanding Achievement in Online Learning by an Individual. And in 2003, Burks Oakley II, visiting research professor in OTEL, received the award.

Online course work began at UIS in 1998 with 30 students. This fall, 1,200 students are enrolled in UIS' 16 fully online degree and degree-completion programs. About half of UIS' 4,711 students are taking at least one online class, and more than 135 UIS faculty members are teaching at least one online course this fall.

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