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# PRESS RELEASE

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## NMC Announces 2008 Center of Excellence Award Recipients

The New Media Consortium (NMC), an international consortium of colleges, universities, and museums, today announced the recipients of the 2008 NMC Center of Excellence Award. The award, the highest honor bestowed by the NMC, recognizes demonstrated excellence and outstanding achievement in the application of technology to learning or creative expression.

Symbolized by a specially struck medallion suspended in a translucent obelisk, the Center of Excellence Award has been designed purposefully to make it distinct from other award or recognition programs. Colleges do not compete for the award, nor is it granted within predefined categories. The selection process is based on the MacArthur Awards, and like that program, the nominators and others involved in the selection process remain anonymous as a core principle of the program. They are chosen from organizations both within and outside the NMC, and represent a considerable diversity of knowledge.

“The Center of Excellence Awards celebrate the innovation and creativity that is part of the fabric of every member institution,” said NMC CEO Larry Johnson. “The NMC organizations recognized this year represent the best of our field, and each has had a tremendous history of accomplishment.”

The 2008 NMC Center of Excellence Award recipients are:

**Rochester Institute of Technology**

RIT Online Learning

*Recognized for their support of emerging technologies, faculty innovation, and online learning*

**The University of Maryland, Baltimore County**

The New Media Studio

*Recognized for their leadership in capturing and disseminating digital stories across the institution*

“The 2008 class of recipients represents the very best of the community of innovators that is the NMC, and each of the awardees exemplifies the vision that brings us all together,” noted Philip Long, chair of the NMC Board of Directors. “Individually and together, these two institutions exemplify the highest values of the NMC, and each has compiled a history of accomplishment that has helped set the standards in the application of new media forms to teaching, learning, and creative expression.”

“The selection committee had a tremendous task and did their job well,” Johnson stated at the Center of Excellence Awards ceremony at the NMC 2008 Summer Conference today. “The 2008 recipients are both acknowledged leaders in the application of technology by any standard. Over its history, the Center of Excellence Award has gone to schools large and small, the well-endowed and the not-so-well endowed; they truly represent the best of the NMC. Together and individually they exemplify the state of the art.”

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## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q Who are the nominators?**

**A** The nominators are drawn from both academe and industry, and are not required to be NMC members. Each is a leader in his or her field. By prior agreement, the identity of the nominators is held in confidence.

**Q How are the selections made?**

**A** Once an institution is nominated, a set of information is put together to help the selection committee make its decisions. This information may be gleaned from the institution's web site, from conversations with knowledgeable persons, through interviews, or by other means. The information collected is reviewed by a selection committee that is charged with identifying the institutions most deserving of this recognition from among the nominees. The award is granted without regard to the size of an institution's staff or resources, and in a manner that ensures equal consideration to successful efforts large and small. By prior agreement, the identity of the members of the selection committee is held in confidence.

**Q What are the categories in which honorees are chosen?**

**A** Like other awards upon which this program is modeled, such as the MacArthur Awards, there are no predefined categories for selection.

### **Previous Center of Excellence Award Recipients**

California State University, Chico	University of British Columbia
California State University System	University of Wisconsin, Madison
Case Western Reserve University	Pasadena City College
Carleton College	Northeastern University
City College of New York	San Francisco Museum of Modern Art
Johns Hopkins University	University of Calgary
Kent State University	University of California, Berkeley
Maricopa Community Colleges	The University of Texas at Austin
Medical College of Ohio	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Otis College of Art and Design	Wesleyan University

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*The New Media Consortium (NMC) is an international 501(c)3 not-for-profit consortium of nearly 300 learning-focused organizations dedicated to the exploration and use of new media and new technologies. Among the membership are an elite list of the most highly regarded colleges and universities in the world, as well as a growing list of innovative museums, research centers, foundations, and forward-thinking companies. The consortium serves as a catalyst for the development of new applications of technology to support learning and creative expression, and sponsors programs and activities designed to stimulate innovation, encourage collaboration, and recognize excellence among its member institutions. Through its many projects, its comprehensive website, and its series of international conferences, the NMC stimulates dialog and understanding through the exploration of promising ideas, technologies, and applications. For more information on the NMC, visit its website at [www.nmc.org](http://www.nmc.org).*

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