



NEWS RELEASE

## American Public University System Honored by Renowned International Nonprofit Group Committed to Excellence in Online Higher Education

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*The Sloan Consortium to Present APUS with the 2009 Ralph E. Gomory Award for Quality Online Education at Annual Conference*

CHARLES TOWN, W.Va.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Sep. 29, 2009-- In recognition of outstanding quality in online learning, The Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C) will present [American Public University System](#) (APUS) with the 2009 Ralph E. Gomory Award for Quality Online Education at the 15<sup>th</sup> Sloan-C Annual International Conference in October. APUS is a regionally and nationally accredited online institution of higher education operating through two universities, [American Military University](#) and [American Public University](#), which educate more than 53,000 adult learners worldwide.

The Ralph E. Gomory Award for Quality Online Education honors the institution that best demonstrates its commitment to assessing and improving the quality of its online education programs through quantitative application of the Sloan-C Quality Pillars; specific characteristics that exemplify best practices in online higher education. The five interdependent pillars, upon which quality online education practices are based, include: access, learning effectiveness, scale, student satisfaction and faculty satisfaction.

"The consortium recognized American Public University System primarily for its excellence in collecting analytics across the enterprise – from managing enrollment and retention to assessing outcomes in student learning and faculty satisfaction," said Dr. Burks Oakley III of Sloan-C. "APUS has designed and implemented a sound and effective data-driven approach to managing all aspects of the learning enterprise in a manner that is exemplary of the world's best online educational practices."

The Sloan Consortium is an organization of universities, colleges and institutions committed to

advancing effective practices in online education and expanding the quality of online higher education.

“It is a tremendous honor to be recognized by this prestigious community of higher education institutions,” said Dr. Frank McCluskey, Provost of APUS. “We shaped our institutional practices around the Sloan-C Quality Pillars and they have become an integral part of our institution and mission. We believe that they accurately represent the foundation by which online students are best served and through their application, learning is most effective.”

“The heart of our university’s approach to academic quality is data-driven decision-making to measure learning. Each day we utilize our data warehouse, graphical dashboards, standard statistical measures, semantic analysis engines and other tools to help us analyze, manage and improve student learning,” added Dr. McCluskey.

APUS embraces the *Community of Inquiry Framework survey* as an end of course survey to measure student engagement and learning, as part of its daily effort to improve learning. In addition, the institution uses many nationally benchmarked tools such as the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress (MAPP), National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) and the Major Field Test—a comprehensive outcomes assessment designed to measure the critical knowledge in a particular field—to benchmark students against national norms for continuous improvement.

Dr. Phil Ice, the Director of Course Design, Research & Development for American Public University System, will also be awarded the 2009 Sloan-C Effective Practice Award for Using the Community of Inquiry Framework Survey for Multi-Level Institutional Evaluation and Continuous Quality Improvement.

Wallace E. Boston, Jr., President of APUS, stated, “Congratulations to our faculty and staff who continually apply best practices to the classroom and remain dedicated to providing the best possible higher education to students. Our university community is grateful for their hard work and unyielding commitment to student success.”

“I respect and appreciate the Sloan Consortium’s leadership in researching and promoting best practices in online higher education and I am grateful that our university has been recognized by this talented community of higher education leaders,” added Mr. Boston.

### **The Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C)**

The Sloan Consortium (Sloan-C) is an institutional and professional leadership organization dedicated to integrating online education into the mainstream of higher education, helping institutions and individual educators improve the quality, scale, and breadth of online education. Sloan-C supports the collaborative sharing of knowledge and effective practices to improve online education in learning effectiveness, access, affordability for learning and providers, and students and faculty satisfaction. For more information, visit [www.sloan-c.org](http://www.sloan-c.org).

### **About American Public University System**

American Public University System (APUS) includes American Public University and American Military University and educates more than 53,000 adult learners worldwide. APUS’s relevant curriculum, affordability and flexibility helps working adults pursue degrees in subjects ranging from homeland security to management and liberal arts. A university book grant supplies textbooks at no cost for eligible undergraduate students. For more information, visit [www.apus.edu](http://www.apus.edu).

Source: American Public University System (APUS)

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