The EDUCAUSE Awards Program, under the guidance of the EDUCAUSE Recognition Committee, brings peer endorsement and distinction to professional accomplishments in higher education information technology.

The Leadership Award is the association’s highest recognition and honors exemplary leaders whose work has had significant positive impact on advancing the theory and practice of information technology in higher education.

The Community Leadership Award recognizes members for their roles as community leaders and active volunteers in professional service to the broader higher education IT community.

The DEI Leadership Award acknowledges and celebrates exemplary leadership in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in our community with clear positive impacts as a result of these efforts.

The Rising Star Award spotlights rising higher education IT leaders whose records reflect ongoing and exceptional growth in contribution to the profession and increased levels of leadership and responsibility.
LINDA JORN:
For pioneering leadership and effectiveness in the area of academic and instructional technologies; for fostering collaborative environments among faculty, technologists, students, and other stakeholders to encourage innovation in academic instruction; for advancing the study and implementation of technology-enhanced learning spaces through her publications and presentations for the broader community of academic technologists.

Linda Jorn personifies what it means to be a leader, visionary, innovator, scholar, and entrepreneur in higher education.

The 2019 EDUCAUSE Leadership Award recognizes Linda Jorn, Associate Vice Provost for Learning Technologies and Director of Academic Technology, Division of Information Technology (DoIT), at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, in recognition of her visionary contributions to academic and instructional technology, her extraordinary collaborative skills, her dedication to scholarship and community service, and her personalized approach to teaching and mentoring colleagues at all levels. Linda’s thought leadership and exceptional strategic skills have helped to shape academic technology and instructional technologies as we know them today.

Linda has spent much of her career in increasingly significant leadership roles across two large and complex higher education institutions. She has been an innovator in academic technology since her days as a graduate student at the University of Minnesota, where she served as half-time director of a team that established what would become the Digital Media Center—a crucial engine for higher education institutions. She has been an innovator, scholar, and entrepreneur in higher education. Linda Jorn personifies what it means to be a leader, visionary, innovator, scholar, and entrepreneur in higher education.

Her contributions to EDUCAUSE include serving on the EDUCAUSE Nominations Committee, the EDUCAUSE Senior Leadership Roundtable (SLR) Council, the EDUCAUSE Advisory Committee for Teaching and Learning, and the EDUCAUSE Learning Initiative Advisory Board. She has been an active member of the Council for Independent Colleges (CIC), serving as CIC Learning Technology chair, chair-elect, and chair emeritus. In addition, she has served on ten CIC and national conference and program planning committees. In 2017, Linda was one of only two Americans invited to be a faculty member for the Council of Australasian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT) Leadership Institute, an appointment she will hold through 2021.

Linda’s leadership and influence extend far beyond her university positions. She has dedicated herself to the broader international community of academic technologists. Linda has served or held membership in more than 40 academic technology committees/councils. As a part of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (now the Big Ten Academic Alliance), she has worked closely with colleagues to pursue interinstitutional collaborations. She is the author or co-author of more than 30 publications and has given more than 120 presentations on topics including institutional collaboration, leadership, work/life balance, the next-generation learning environment, digital ecosystems, learning analytics, and the impact of technology on teaching and learning. She was the principal investigator or co-investigator on 19 grants worth millions of dollars.

EDUCAUSE acknowledges Linda Jorn for her many contributions to EDUCAUSE and higher education.
2019 EDUCAUSE Community Leadership Award

MARK ASKREN: For exemplary and extensive leadership in the field of higher education information technology; for demonstrating vision, knowledge, and inclusiveness as an IT thought leader; for building relationships that promote professional growth, personal commitment, and teamwork throughout the IT profession.

The 2019 EDUCAUSE Community Leadership Award recognizes Mark Askren, Senior Advisor to the President at the University of Nebraska, for his wide-ranging contributions to higher education. In nearly four decades of service to the profession, Mark has demonstrated the ability to envision and prepare for the future and has shown an unwavering commitment to help institutions and colleagues succeed.

In his early roles at the University of California campuses at Irvine and San Diego, and the University of Illinois, Mark’s reputation in the IT community grew steadily. He held a series of leadership roles within the University of Illinois system, where he was credited with spearheading an extensive professional development program that transformed client service effectiveness. Mark’s career then led him to return to the University of California, Irvine, as Director and later Assistant Vice Chancellor of Administrative Computing Services. He also served on the University of California IT Leadership Council, which determined strategic directions for all UC system-wide computing initiatives.

Advancing to the University of Nebraska in 2009, Mark provided critical leadership for information technology in his role as Vice Chancellor and CIO at the flagship Lincoln campus and then additionally as Vice President of Information Technology for the University of Nebraska system. During his tenure at Nebraska, Mark’s leadership has been truly transformational, as he led the organization through its “OneIT” initiative, bringing four independent IT organizations into a single unified division while realizing significant cost savings for the institution. One colleague observed, “Mark is incredibly balanced in his leadership abilities. His focus on the big picture brought stability to the organization, and his ability to create shared meaning is what allowed staff throughout our division to understand the vision and path forward.”

Collaboration and collegiality are hallmarks of Mark’s professional career. He continually nurtures cooperative initiatives within the system and looks for cross-institutional opportunities through his involvement with the Research University CIO Conclave (RUCC), the Unizin Consortium, and the Big Ten Academic Alliance. In his years on the Unizin board, Mark was instrumental in supporting the consortium and helping higher education identify opportunities in the ever-changing digital education landscape.

Mark has a passion for helping his colleagues to become experienced, confident leaders and more effective technology practitioners. He is an openhearted mentor and celebrates the success of others. He is also deeply committed to increasing diversity in the field of information technology through his support of the Women Advance IT leadership conference, a national event to promote progress in improving gender diversity and inclusion in the profession.

Mark’s scholarly work in the area of IT leadership theory and practice establishes him as a thought leader at the national level. And his support of EDUCAUSE is evident through his numerous publications and presentations. In addition to serving on the EDUCAUSE board, he has been an EDUCAUSE Leadership Institute faculty member and Leadership Advisor Chair for the Hawkins Leadership Roundtable. He chaired the Annual Program Committee in 2014 and was a member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force, which provided foundational work in support of the association’s strategic priority to promote DEI. Beyond his contributions to EDUCAUSE, he has served on the board of the Great Plains Regional Network and the Microsoft Higher Education Advisory Council, and he is an Internet2 Program Advisory Group Chair.

As a leader, Mark Askren brings together expansive thinking, foresight, humility, humor, and a collegial approach as he engages and inspires others in the higher education IT community.
Melissa Woo exemplifies and inspires action for success in DEI discussions and practices across the academy for the benefit of all.

In addition to her service within the EDUCAUSE community, Melissa is active in many other professional IT organizations and DEI advocacy groups. She has been a keynote speaker at the Women Advance IT leadership conference at the University of Nebraska and an invited speaker at the University System of Georgia Women in Technology Summit. She openly and honestly shares her personal views and insights about the DEI opportunities and challenges faced by marginalized and unrepresented people, creating a safe space for discussion among all groups. She also partnered with Florence Hudson at Internet2 and the National Science Foundation Cybersecurity Center of Excellence at Indiana University to create programs that expand opportunities and eliminate barriers for undergraduate and graduate students who are from underrepresented populations and are interested in computer science, data sciences, and technology.

Working tirelessly to elevate and illuminate the challenges faced by people of color, members of the LGBTQ community, professionals of all ages, women, and individuals with disabilities, Melissa Woo exemplifies and inspires action for success in DEI discussions and practices across the academy for the benefit of all.
The 2019 EDUCAUSE Rising Star Award is presented to Tina Pappas, Associate Director of Innovation and Technology at Rutgers University–Newark, to recognize her steady advancement at Rutgers and her impact as an emerging leader and mentor at her institution and in the broader higher education IT community. Since joining Rutgers University in 2004 as Manager of the IT Helpdesk for the School of Communication and Information, she has taken on increasingly responsible roles. In 2009, she was promoted to Manager of IT Operations and soon after became the Assistant Director of Information Technology. Always advocating for the customer, Tina has a keen ability to enhance experiences through process optimization, which has led to her current campus-level position.

Throughout her tenure at Rutgers, Tina has dedicated herself to increasing collegiality, communication, and engagement among the nearly 1,200 IT staff members across the Rutgers University system. She integrated Slack into the greater Rutgers IT community, allowing central and distributed IT staff to communicate across departments and campuses, solve problems quickly, share resources, and connect with common interests. As the self-described chief culture officer (CCO) for the Rutgers University technology community, she regularly organizes informal gatherings, providing IT staff members with the opportunity to meet face-to-face and develop connections. Her unique ability to foster relationships has made her the nexus of the Rutgers IT community.

The impact of Tina’s work extends beyond her informal activities through her leadership roles on the Rutgers University Senate, the CIO IT Leadership Council, and a number of enterprise service strategic committees. Through her participation in the Rutgers Leadership Academy, Tina spearheaded the development of an onboarding program for IT staff members at Rutgers. In an institution with hundreds of departments, campuses spanning three cities, and numerous satellite locations, Tina recognized that a disparity in the quality of onboarding processes for technologists was leaving some IT departments isolated. Her onboarding initiative—created in collaboration with central and distributed departments, faculty and staff subject matter experts, and human resources—promotes diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and ensures that valuable information is accessible to all employees.

Tina has quickly become an active and influential leader within the EDUCAUSE community as well. She serves as chair of the Young Professionals Advisory Committee and as co-chair of the Young Professionals Community Group. As a member of the EDUCAUSE working group exploring the future higher education IT workforce, Tina participated alongside ten US and UK IT leaders to develop solutions and recommendations around issues such as effective recruitment/retention strategies and hiring practices as they relate to undergraduate and graduate education requirements and DEI. In addition, she has presented on effective communication techniques and women leading change at several EDUCAUSE conferences and events.

Tina is a passionate, tenacious advocate and ambassador with a natural ability to move groups forward in meaningful ways. She has established herself as a leader and role model in cultivating relationships and building a culture of inclusion for faculty, staff, and students, as well as for the broader EDUCAUSE community. Tina Pappas is laying a foundation that will have a profound and positive impact on the higher education community for years to come.

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