

NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release
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***University of Washington Receives
Technology Leadership Award***

The **NorthWest Academic Computing Consortium (NWACC)** announces the winner of the 2006 *Joanne R. Hugi Excellence Award for Regional Leadership*, honoring outstanding information technology leadership practices at higher education institutions in the Northwest. The NWACC *Excellence Award* was given to the Office of Learning Technologies at the University of Washington (UW) for development of *Catalyst WebQ for Research*.

Catalyst Web Tools comprise a suite of twelve Web-based communication and collaboration tools designed for use by anyone with university affiliation. The tools' modularity provide a multitude of benefits, for example, faculty can use them for courses, students can use them to build online portfolios or publish Web pages, and project teams can use them to facilitate online collaboration.

Some of the innovative tasks to which the software has been applied include: creating problem sets for law students in civil procedure courses, conducting faculty senate and student body elections, assessing the weekly course progress of over 1,000 physics students, and evaluating medical internships and residency programs. More than 6,500 Human Subjects research surveys have been developed with WebQ since the software was introduced.

Tom Lewis, the Director of Catalyst Research & Development for the Office of Learning Technologies, says "one of the greatest strengths of Catalyst WebQ is that it was created with input from people all over campus. As a result, the tool is flexible enough to be used by a wide audience. The fact that WebQ has quickly become an integral part of the work of so many researchers is a real testament to our user-centered design process."

"This award for our support of research with Catalyst WebQ is very gratifying," says Louis Fox, University of Washington Vice Provost for Learning Technologies. "It showcases the accomplishments of a talented web development team, the Catalyst Group, and their commitment to serving diverse UW stakeholders and communities."

Martin Ringle, President of NWACC, praised the development of Catalyst WebQ, saying that "NWACC's Excellence Award is meant to raise awareness of the best technology products and practices developed by colleges and universities in the Pacific Northwest. The University of Washington's Catalyst software is a superb example of the technological ingenuity thriving in our region."

More Information

Catalyst <http://catalyst.washington.edu>

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The Office of Learning Technologies develops and delivers user-inspired, innovative technologies to the entire University of Washington community to help faculty, staff, students, instructors, and researchers achieve their teaching, learning, research, and other professional goals.

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The NorthWest Academic Computing Consortium (NWACC), founded in 1987, comprises 30 colleges, universities, and other nonprofit organizations in the Pacific Northwest. Its mission is to foster communication and collaboration among member institutions related to the development and use of advanced technology for instruction, research, and administrative operations. Information about the NWACC Excellence Award is available at:

<http://www.nwacc.org/programs/awards/awards.html>