

PAUL ROITMAN BARDACK

October 17, 2005

To The USDLA Membership:

Today I shall begin my service as President of our organization. At the moment, I feel a keen sense of humility. At a “macro” level, e-learning is needed more than ever in our increasingly global and interdependent economy, and it is humbling to be at the helm of America’s leading trade group dedicated to advancing that vision. At a “micro” level, it is also humbling for me to have to follow the example set by my predecessor, Dr. Deborah Harrison -- as I am about to do --- or to work with such gifted professionals as Dr. John Flores, Kathleen Clemens, and Patricia Marcelonis.

“Oh that a man’s reach should exceed his grasp, or what’s a Heaven for?” wrote Robert Browning. I think of those words when I think of USDLA.

We grasp for the heavens: we seek to identify and share best practices through our journal and our various international and national strategic alliances; we seek to create professional networking opportunities through our chapters and the conference we’re hoping to advance; and we seek to advocate appropriate public policy through our policy forum and advocacy activities.

Yet, our grasp is limited: our membership, while growing, is still relatively small; our budget, though improving, is still insufficient to permit us to do all that we wish; and our staff, however dedicated and impressive, is still too few in numbers to enable us to act effectively upon all our proposed initiatives.

Thus the themes for 2005-2006: stabilize our financial base, grow our membership, create true partnership with our chapters --- and continue to seek out fiscally responsible, and workable, opportunities to share best practices, to encourage networking, and to advocate policy change.

I will not be working on these themes alone; our staff, our Board, our Advisory Board, and our Executive Committee are all equal partners in this enterprise. I thank them, in advance, for the hard work that lies ahead.

And I thank all of you for your confidence in me at this crucial, and exciting, juncture in our organization’s history.

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2005 – 2006 USDLA President
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