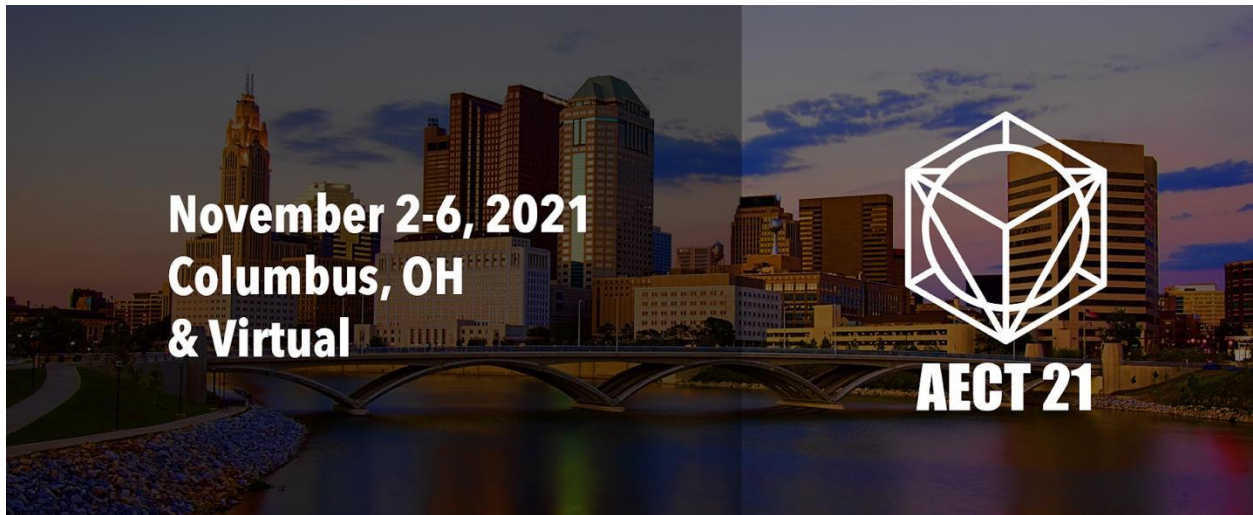


## **AECT2021 Honoring Educational Revolutions in Online (HERO) Practice Awards Call for Submission – Higher Education Category**

<https://aect.org/heroes.php>  
Nominate a HERO Practice at  
<https://forms.gle/hUijW2YkhGUAXaDU7>



The outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic and unrest across the world has resulted in significant disruptions to our education system. In face of these uncertainties and social turmoil, many universities and higher education institutions have had to transition to online modes to continue teaching and learning. Higher education called upon college instructors, administrators, and instructional designers to be heroes, who quickly adapted to novel challenges in experimenting with new technology, new tools, and new pedagogical approaches to model learning for their students geographically dispersed. As we bid farewell to a historic 2020 and continue with the battles in 2021, the Association for Educational Communications and Technology (AECT) hopes to take this opportunity to honor educational revolutions in online (HERO) practice by our higher education colleagues at our 2021 annual convention.

The HERO Practice Award committee invites submissions from higher education programs, instructors, administrators, and instructional designers that showcase innovative use of technology integrated in the classroom instruction in response to the demands of the challenges faced in 2020. Nominating the HERO Practice completed by a new AECT member is highly encouraged, but nominations for current AECT members will also be considered.

Three award winners will be selected and invited to present their work at our annual convention in November 2021 and be featured on our official social media channels (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo). We will also provide the three awardees with

- 1) a plaque of award recognition.
- 2) complimentary convention registration (travel and board expense will be on your own);  
and
- 3) the awardee's choice of a selection from the [AECT Books & Briefs series](#).

- 4) mentoring opportunities for the awardees to shadow senior professionals and experienced scholars (matched by personal research/teaching/career interests) for two days at the convention.

**Note** that individual and group submissions are allowed, but only the leading contributor will receive the award honorarium.

### **Tentative Deadline**

- **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021** Call for proposal releases and the submission is open.
- **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 11:59 PM (PST)** The deadline to submit your HERO award entries
- **August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** The committee will announce award decisions
- **November 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021** Awardees deliver HERO presentation at AECT annual convention.

### **Submissions:**

Nominations need to be submitted on this Google Form –

<https://forms.gle/hUijW2YkhGUAxaDU7>. Self-nomination is allowed. All submissions should consist of:

- **Title of the Project** (no more than 15 words)
- **Nominator's contact information**
- **Nominee(s)'s contact information**
- **The Timeline of the Project** – Describe the implementation duration of the project.
- **The Problem of the Practice** – Describe the problem that the project attempts to solve and also justify how the project and its artifacts can support the solution of the problem.
- **The Project Summary** (no more than 750 words) – Describe how the nominated project meets the technological and pedagogical criteria of the HERO Practice Award. Provide justifications grounded in scholarly and professional literature.
- **The Impact of the Practice** – Describe the impact of the practice in its local context (e.g., classrooms, programs, and institutions) and also a broader context (e.g., statewide, nationwide, and global). Provide measurable results and evidence of instructional effectiveness (e.g., course evaluation or assessment about learner engagement and performance).

### **Eligibility:**

- The project needs to be implemented in higher education settings between March 2020 and December 2020.
- The leading contributor needs to be an active employee/consultant at a higher education institution when implementing the practice.
- At least one of the contributors of the nominated project commits to attending the AECT 2021 convention in person. The committee reserves the right to rescind the award if the awardees cannot attend the convention in person.

### **Review:**

The review will be coordinated by the AECT HERO Practice Award Committee. The awards committee will invite AECT members with experience in technology integration and higher education to serve as reviewers. The review will closely follow the criteria provided below with

a focus on the innovative use of technology and the alignment of the technology use with instructional design theories and models.

**Criteria:**

The submission will be evaluated in three dimensions - *innovation* (e.g., innovative use of emerging technology), *technological fidelity* (e.g., artifact quality, technological rational, alignment, sequencing), and *pedagogical fidelity* (e.g., significance of the problem, grounded in learning theories, measurable evidence about the effectiveness, and the local/broad impact of the practice).

**Contact:**

HERO Awards Coordinator - Dr. Hengtao Tang (htang@mailbox.sc.edu)

Higher Education HERO Awards Chair - Dr. Jill Stefaniak (Jill.Stefaniak@uga.edu)

**Reservation of Rights:**

The HERO Practice Award Committee reserves all rights, including but not limited to the right to modify the awards and any criteria before the call for nominations has opened; accept an early or late nomination based on evidence of unique circumstances; disqualify a nomination that does not meet the published requirements; recognize only some of the award nominations or none at all; and rescind an award based on evidence of a breach of the AECT Code of Professional Ethics and/or the eligibility requirements.