

## West Virginia State University Gus R. Douglass Institute wins technology award for outstanding website

**Institute, W.Va.** – The Gus R. Douglass Institute (GRDI) of West Virginia State University has placed second in the Statewide Internet Group (also known as “Swiggy”) Awards competition. The competition recognizes Web site design excellence in state government, K-12 schools or higher education. The new GRDI website provides faster page loading, more in depth program description, enhanced user functions, as well as integrated social media applications.

Mr. Robert Loughry, communications director for the Douglass Institute, said the GRDI website has also won other previous awards this year.

“In partnership with Dreamcatcher, we completely redesigned the website. They helped us to present a more user friendly site that is easier to navigate while incorporating new social media portals.” Loughry said. “As more and more people become aware of our website, we hope they become regular visitors to participate in our new social media applications and the exciting community programs the Douglass Institute offers.”

The winners of the Swiggy Awards were announced in December by the SWIG. SWIG is a user group of the West Virginia Information Technology Council (ITC). Participation in SWIG is very diverse and includes people from across the state who are responsible for maintaining, developing or coordinating websites at state agencies, in the K-12 school system, or in higher education.

Only in its second year, “Swiggy” awards are presented to the top three websites nominated from within West Virginia. The purpose of the Swiggy Awards is to recognize state organizations' efforts in creating and maintaining well-designed, helpful, accessible and easy to use websites for the citizens of West Virginia. An award-winning website should be aesthetically pleasing and easy to use. For state and federal organizations, websites must also be accessible – meaning they can be used by people with all types of disabilities.

For more information on the GRDI and to view the award winning website, please visit [www.grdi.wvstateu.edu](http://www.grdi.wvstateu.edu).

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