



PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE
AT THE SOLDIERS' HOME

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President Lincoln's Cottage Receives Platinum Distance Learning Award *Debating Emancipation* Proves to Be Leader in Online Interactive Programming

Washington, D.C. (May 5, 2010)— President Lincoln's Cottage, a National Trust Historic site located in Washington, D.C., received the Platinum award for "Best Practices for Distance Learning Programming" from the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) for its online version of *Lincoln's Toughest Decisions: Debating Emancipation*. This prestigious International Award is presented annually to organizations and individuals engaged in the development and delivery of distance learning programs.

Lincoln's Toughest Decisions: Debating Emancipation is an interactive program that puts students in the role of Lincoln's closest advisors. Using letters and other historical documents students learn how they would advise the President on this controversial issue. This innovative program is currently offered as a school/adult program at the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center at President Lincoln's Cottage and, thanks to a grant from the Motorola Foundation, is also available on LincolnCottage.org so that teachers and individuals around the country can use this program in their own classrooms and homes.

The USDLA Awards were created to acknowledge major accomplishments in distance learning and to highlight those distance learning instructors, programs, and professionals who have achieved and demonstrated extraordinary results through the use of online, videoconferencing, satellite and blended learning delivery technologies. "Each year these winners raise the bar and exceed best practice expectations for the industry as a whole and we are truly honored by their contributions to the distance learning industry" said Dr. John G. Flores, CEO of USDLA.

Link to Debating Emancipation Online: <http://www.lincolncottage.org/schoolsandgroups/offcampus.htm>

President Lincoln's Cottage offers other school programs and group tours for field trips year round. Visit <http://www.lincolncottage.org/schoolsandgroups/index.htm> for more information. The Cottage is located on a picturesque hilltop in Northwest Washington, DC, on the grounds of the Armed Forces Retirement Home, also known as the Soldiers' Home. President Lincoln spent one quarter of his presidency here and was living here when he drafted the Emancipation proclamation and deliberated issues of the Civil War. Opened to the public for the first time in 2008, the Cottage offers intimate, guided tours providing an in-depth, media-enhanced experience highlighting Lincoln's ideas and actions through historical images and voices. The Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center, adjacent to the Cottage, houses thematic galleries and changing exhibitions providing visitors of all ages opportunities for in-depth exploration of Lincoln's life and times.

For more information go to www.lincolncottage.org

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a non-profit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them. By saving the places where great moments from history – and the important moments of everyday life – took place, the National Trust for Historic Preservation helps revitalize neighborhoods and communities, spark economic development and promote environmental sustainability. With headquarters in Washington, DC, 9 regional and field offices, 29 historic sites, and partner organizations in all 50 states, the National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to a national network of people, organizations and local communities committed to saving places, connecting us to our history and collectively shaping the future of America's stories. For more information, visit www.PreservationNation.org.

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