



Marci M. Powell

Global Director for Education

Marci Powell is Global Director for Education at Polycom and Chair Emerita and Past President of the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA). Powell is an industry expert in the field of educational technology and telecommunications with extensive experience in applications related to lifelong learning and innovation.

With over 20 years of progressive leadership and management serving as an advisor to public and private sectors in the Americas, Europe, Middle East, and Asia Pacific, Marci shares global best practices and trends in education as a fellow educator and futurist through her keynote addresses. In her role at USDLA, Powell helps lead an association focused on global support of distance learning programming, applications, and leadership. In her current capacity at Polycom, she supports a variety of organizations worldwide through thought leadership and strategic planning guidance in the use of technology to address learning and training needs.

Prior to assuming her position at Polycom, Powell was Director of Educational Advocacy for AT&T where she was named to AT&T's 2004 President's Club for top achievers. While there, she worked with numerous educational institutions providing support for their telecommunications vision and in creating distance learning programs and successful integration of technology to empower 21st century learning. Previous to AT&T, she was President of VibrantC, Inc. and Global Education Market Manager for VTEL.

Powell began her career as a classroom teacher and quickly moved on to serve as an administrator at various educational institutions across Texas. During her service as Technology Coordinator at Allen ISD, the district was named the "Lighthouse District for Technology Integration" by the Commissioner of Education. While there, Marci was awarded the Texas Computer Education Association (TCEA) 1998 Technology Support Person of the Year. Powell also received the Texas Distance Learning Association (TxDLA) 2000 Outstanding Individual Commitment to Service award, the 2002 Don Foshee Outstanding Leadership award, and was the 2011 inductee into the TxDLA Hall of Fame. Most recently, Marci received Polycom's prestigious 2011 CEO Award.

Her articles on technology integration and distance learning have been published in USA Today, USDLA Distance Learning Magazine for Leaders, UKDLA Distance Learning Publication, and TASSP Texas Study, a publication of the Texas Association for Secondary School Principals. Powell has been quoted in numerous publications including Washington Post, University Business Magazine, NZ Interface Magazine, Campus Technology Magazine, Asia Pacific's Future Gov magazine, Auckland Herald, Japan's Nikkei IT Pro and many online environments.

Ms. Powell serves on the Global Advisory Council Board for The Observatory for Borderless Higher Education (OBHE) and is past Board Chair for Communities in Schools San Antonio. Her work with organizations such as the European Distance and E-learning Network (EDEN), Internet2, The Masie Center LEARNING Consortium as well as with educational institutions, various ministries of education, and businesses helps drive high quality learning environments worldwide. Her focus is to not only ensure institutions have the tools they need but are implementing best practices pedagogically and in business.

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