

Oak Foundation Invests in UDL Credentialing, Certification Effort *CAST, UDL-IRN partner to build capacity and support across the UDL field*

Wakefield, MA —Oak Foundation has awarded CAST and the UDL Implementation and Research Network (UDL-IRN) \$1 million over three years in support of efforts to create the Universal Design for Learning Certification and Credentialing Initiative (UDL-CCI).

CAST and the UDL-IRN launched the field-change initiative in 2016 to stimulate and sustain best practices in education program design, product development, and classroom instruction. Universal Design for Learning, or UDL, is a research-based framework for developing student-centered environments. With the UDL-CCI, the partners are working to promote the adoption and use of the UDL framework to build capacity for personalized learning.

Key goals for the project include:

- ✓ Build up a library of UDL learning resources and a global community through an online platform, *Learning Designed*, to launch in beta form in the Fall, 2018.
- ✓ Develop and field test general and role-specific credentials to qualify individual educators in applying UDL to curriculum design and classroom teaching.
- ✓ Develop and test credentials to certify education technology developers and local education agencies and/or schools as examples of UDL best practices.
- ✓ Create a scalable, sustainable business model for *Learning Designed*, which will house the certification and credentialing programs.

“We are grateful to Oak Foundation for supporting this project that we believe will improve outcomes for all learners, especially those with learning differences,” said CAST Chief Executive Officer Linda Gerstle. “Oak’s ongoing commitment to our partnership is a great vote of confidence in the promise of UDL.”

About CAST: Founded in 1984, CAST is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to transform education design and practice until learning has no limits. CAST has earned international recognition for its innovative contributions to educational technology, classroom practices, and policies, especially by originating the Universal Design for Learning framework. CAST—Until Learning Has No Limits®

About the UDL-IRN: Founded in 2011, the UDL-IRN is a nonprofit organization that supports the growing work in UDL implementation and research both nationally and internationally. The

IRN hosts an annual summit of researchers, educators, and product providers from multiple countries to foster innovation in UDL implementation and research. The IRN includes leaders from K-12, higher-education, research, and industry across five continents.