

PRESS RELEASE

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The Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching – MERLOT (www.merlot.org) Announces the 2015 MERLOT Awards for Exemplary Online Learning Resources

This program recognizes and promotes outstanding peer reviewed online resources designed to enhance teaching and learning. The award is granted to honor the authors and developers of these resources for their contributions to the academic community. Every year each of the MERLOT Editorial Boards is able to select an outstanding resource from its discipline to receive the **MERLOT Classics Award**. MERLOT considers this learning material an exemplary online learning resource and it is now recognized as so on the MERLOT website listing.

The winner of the 2015 MERLOT **Information Technology** Classics Award was

The App Inventor by Hal Albelson and the App Inventor Team at MIT. The resource and MERLOT Peer Review can be found here:

<http://www.merlot.org/merlot/viewCompositeReview.htm?id=926224>

The MERLOT Information Technology Editorial Board has this to say about the Learning Material:

This is an extensive hands on tutorial and development tool for students new to Android App building. Students learn basic programming by following specific examples and drag/drop options. It's a visual, blocks-based development tool for the building of apps for Android phones. Predefined blocks preclude the need for coding. However, programming concepts are integral to the blocks. There is no cost for use of the tool. It was originally developed at Google and was taken over by M.I.T.

The winners of the 2015 Classics award were honored with a ceremony and a plaque at the 2015 MERLOT/Sloan-C Emerging Technologies Conference, on April 23th at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel.

MERLOT (<http://www.merlot.org>) is an international initiative enabling faculty to integrate technology into higher education. It is an online community of faculty and institutions collaborating to increase the quantity of high quality web-based, interactive teaching and learning materials. The MERLOT website is a free “gateway” for these web-based materials. Finding web-based materials to incorporate into one’s course is just the first step for faculty; faculty must also decide if the materials are correct, effective teaching-learning tools, and easy to use. A continually growing collection of high quality online teaching and learning materials is realized through MERLOT’s Peer Review Process. MERLOT conducts the peer review of online materials and ensures reliable and valid reviews through the selection and training of the editorial board members as well as on-going support for the review process. The MERLOT Community offers additional services to both instructors and students that help improve the learning process.

For more information about the MERLOT Awards Program, contact Jane Moore (jane@merlot.org).