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**NACOL Releases *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching***

WASHINGTON, DC, February 21, 2008 – Today, the North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL) released “National Standards for Quality Online Teaching,” a publication designed to provide states, districts, online programs, and other organizations with a set of quality guidelines for online teaching.

As a result of the research review, NACOL fully endorses the work of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) *Standards for Quality Online Teaching* and *Online Teaching Evaluation for State Virtual Schools* as a comprehensive set of criteria. The standards as identified by SREB, already in use by sixteen SREB states, proved to be the most comprehensive and included guidelines set forth in the other criteria from the literature review. A full cross-reference of standards was conducted.

“Our overall goal is to ensure that every student has access to the highest quality education available today. Online teaching standards help ensure the quality and consistency of instruction in K-12 online education,” says Susan Patrick, President and CEO of NACOL. “The *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching* offers an important tool to help teachers, schools, and parents across the nation evaluate quality and implement best practices.”

“Online teaching is providing teachers with new professional opportunities and is providing students with access to academic courses otherwise unavailable. For online learning to expand and grow, education leaders need assurance for quality. It is important for states to recognize quality online teaching and learning standards,” says Bill Thomas, Director of Educational Technology, SREB. “NACOL is building upon and validating the quality work for online learning and virtual schools of SREB to help programs nationally.”

As a proven, practical method to enhance the critical learning experience, K-12 online learning is growing rapidly, 30% annually. Online learning levels the playing field for all students to access high quality courses and teachers.

The *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching* are available on NACOL’s website: [www.nacol.org](http://www.nacol.org).

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## **About NACOL**

The North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL), founded in September 2003, is *the* international K-12 non-profit organization representing the interests of administrators, practitioners and students involved in online learning worldwide. NACOL's mission is to increase educational opportunities and to enhance learning by providing collegial expertise and leadership in the K-12 online teaching and learning marketplace.