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Michael Horn Will Offer Keynote Address at NACOL's Virtual School Symposium

WASHINGTON, DC, September 16, 2008 – The North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL) is pleased to announce that author Michael Horn will be the Virtual School Symposium keynote speaker on Tuesday, October 28 at 8:00 a.m. in Phoenix, AZ. His address is titled, *Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns*, and his keynote will cover the case studies and themes of his book of the same title, while focusing on the important innovation of K-12 online learning.

The book uses the theories of disruptive innovation to identify the root causes of schools' struggles and suggests a path forward to customize an education for every child in the way he or she learns. In his keynote address, Horn will share the main ideas of this book to inspire change in today's online learning field. Michael Horn is the co-founder and Executive Director, Education of Innosight Institute. Innosight Institute is a non-profit think tank devoted to applying the theories of disruptive innovation to problems in the social sector. He holds an AB from Yale and an MBA from Harvard. Michael Horn co-authored the book, *Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns* (McGraw-Hill: June 2008), with Harvard Business School professor, Clayton Christensen, and Curtis Johnson.

Susan Patrick, CEO of NACOL, said, "We are thrilled Michael Horn will be keynoting the Virtual School Symposium. Online learning is causing tectonic policy shifts in education to help level the playing field and expand options for students. In the last 10 years, there has been explosive growth in online learning at a rate of 30% annually - from 50,000 enrollments in 2000 to more than 1,000,000 enrollments in 2007; with half of all school districts offering online courses today. Before programs can offer online courses, they must examine and rethink every lesson to include in the online course, rethink teacher training, change instructional models and strategies, rethink use of time, and move to greater student-centered approaches and services."

According to Michael Horn, "Online learning is a powerful innovation for education that is growing fast. By 2019, it is estimated that 50% of all courses will be offered online."

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About NACOL

The North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL) is an international K-12 non-profit association advocating online learning to increase access to high quality education and represents the interests of educational stakeholders, providers and students worldwide (www.nacol.org). NACOL is the host of the Virtual School Symposium, October 26-28, 2008 in Phoenix, AZ (www.virtualschoolsymposium.org). Organizations contributing to the financial support of this cutting-edge conference on K-12 online education include eClassroom, Insight Schools, Odysseyware and Pearson Education.