



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Susan Patrick  
NACOL President & CEO  
703-752-6216, [spatrick@nacol.org](mailto:spatrick@nacol.org)

## **NACOL Hosts 5th Annual Virtual School Symposium in Arizona**

Glendale, AZ, October 24, 2008 – The Virtual School Symposium (VSS) is the leading event in K-12 online learning nationally, bringing more than 1,200 online learning experts and educators from every state and from around the globe to Arizona on October 26-28, 2008 at the Renaissance Glendale Hotel. Keynote speakers include Fabrizio Cardinali, representing the European Union’s E-learning Industry Group, and Michael Horn, executive director of Innosight Institute and co-author of the new book, [Disrupting Class](#).

K-12 online learning is growing at 30% annually and there were an estimated 1,000,000 enrollments in K-12 online courses last year in the United States. Online learning provides expanded academic opportunities to students and provides options to enhance a student’s learning experience.

On Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, the conference luncheon will host a panel of ten Arizona students ranging from 6<sup>th</sup> grade to 12<sup>th</sup> grade who have taken online courses. The student panel will provide the students’ perspective on virtual schools.

At the VSS, experts in K-12 virtual education have robust networking opportunities; learn about the latest trends, challenges and opportunities in e-learning; interact in session presentations; and gain access to the latest research and best practices reports.

According to Susan Patrick, President & CEO of the North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL), “We need to listen to students about what they want and provide them what they need to be prepared for college and the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. 20% of all college students take an online course and 30% of workforce training is conducted online. Being online is natural to many kids and education can be personalized, individualized and enhanced in ways never possible before the digital revolution. We will be examining case studies and best practices in virtual schools and online learning from around the world.”

The Pre-Conference Sessions run Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> and the Conference runs October 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>.

Registration is open onsite. Website: [www.virtualschoolsymposium.org](http://www.virtualschoolsymposium.org). Press welcome.

# # #

### **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](http://www.nacol.org)