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iNACOL Welcomes Opportunities to Work with Duncan on Online Learning

Vienna, VA, February 13, 2009 – iNACOL looks forward to working with the new Secretary of Education, the Honorable Arne Duncan, to further access to online learning in the United States.

Supporting online learning innovations that expand educational opportunities for all students is critical to ensure every student has access to a world-class education, regardless of where they live or their parents' income level. States investing in online learning and virtual schools are realizing the benefits of providing top-quality curriculum delivered by highly qualified teachers that address gaps in critical subject areas, such as science and math, while modernizing learning experiences for today's students through engaging multimedia, customized and personalized instruction, and expanded educational choices at any location. Every student should have the right to choose online learning opportunities as part of a rigorous, world-class education that develops essential 21st Century skills.

Susan Patrick, President & CEO of iNACOL said, "Online learning requires investments in high-quality digital content, online teacher training, staffing for online learning programs as well as technology infrastructure, and is only effective when coupled with the parallel modernization of relevant policies at the state and local level."

We thank Secretary Duncan for supporting online learning, virtual schools and educational technology, and we look forward to the new administration and the developments it will bring to our field.

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About iNACOL

iNACOL is the International Association for K-12 Online Learning. iNACOL is a non-profit association that believes online learning is a powerful innovation that expands education opportunities (www.inacol.org). iNACOL supports access to high-quality online learning for all students. iNACOL hosts the annual Virtual School Symposium (VSS); VSS 2009 will be held Nov. 15 – 17, 2009 in Austin, TX (www.virtualschoolsymposium.org).