



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **iNACOL Endorses New USDOE Research Showing Online Learning Works**

Vienna, VA, July 15, 2009– The International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) endorses the U.S. Department of Education’s new report, *Evaluation of Evidence-Based Practices in Online Learning: A Meta-Analysis and Review of Online Learning Studies*.

The new research study released June 26, 2009 by the U.S. Department of Education states, “Students who took all or part of their class online performed better, on average, than those taking the same course through traditional face-to-face instruction.”

The report is available online at <http://www.ed.gov/rschstat/eval/tech/evidence-based-practices/finalreport.pdf>.

iNACOL President & CEO Susan Patrick states, “Research of online learning in K-12 education is critical. The federal government’s investment in the online learning study validates how important expanding access through online courses is – and that it works. We see this study as proof positive that K-12 online learning is a solution to leveling the playing field and improving education for all students.”

K-12 online learning is growing at 30% annually and with an estimated 1,000,000 enrollments in K-12 online courses in the United States in 2008. Online learning benefits include expanding opportunity, leveling the playing field for students regardless of geography and transforming the learning experience for all types of students through new, online course options taught by high-quality teachers to customize and individualize instruction.

Online learning works and is providing solutions to challenges facing K-12 schools. From keeping students in school and on-track through online credit recovery to accelerating a students' college readiness by earning college credits in the local high school through online dual enrollment, schools are finding new, innovative ways to help students re-engage in academics and learn critical technology literacy skills at the same time.

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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](http://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](http://www.virtualschoolsymposium.org)).