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iNACOL Releases A Summary of Research on the Effectiveness of K-12 Online Learning

WASHINGTON, DC, September 1, 2009 – The International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) announces the release of a new report, *A Summary of Research on the Effectiveness of K-12 Online Learning*. This summary outlines a literature review of the existing studies on K-12 online learning effectiveness and shows specific examples of how online learning can increase student achievement.

According to Susan Patrick, President and CEO of iNACOL, and author of the report, “A range of studies comparing traditional delivery to online learning finds that students who are enrolled in virtual schools and online courses are performing better on exams and enhancing their education. Online learning is serving diverse student needs for improving performance. Old school models may not work best for today’s students. From students practicing foreign languages with native speakers through virtual learning, students taking advanced courses where the courses are otherwise unavailable, to students retaking math courses online, online learning is a way for students to learn more and accelerate.”

K-12 online learning is growing at 30% annually, with an estimated one million enrollments in K-12 online courses in the United States in 2008. Schools are using online learning and virtual schools in innovative ways to provide rigorous courses, effective teachers and more engaging curriculum to students. At the same time, students are learning critical 21st century technology skills. From enhancing academic continuity plans during school closures to providing personalized instruction day-to-day, online learning is helping to keep students on track for graduating on-time and becoming college-ready.

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About iNACOL

iNACOL is the International Association for K-12 Online Learning, a non-profit 501(c)(3) membership association based in the Washington, DC area with more than 2,500 members. iNACOL is unique in that its members represent a diverse cross-section of K-12 education from school districts, charter schools, state education agencies, non-profit organizations, colleges, universities and research institutions, corporate entities and other content and technology providers (www.inacol.org). iNACOL hosts the annual Virtual School Symposium (VSS). VSS 2009 will be held Nov. 15 – 17, 2009 in Austin, TX (www.virtualschoolsymposium.org).