



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Susan Patrick
iNACOL President & CEO
202-441-5780, spatrick@inacol.org

iNACOL Releases *Examining Communication and Interaction in Online Teaching*

WASHINGTON, DC, September 9, 2009 – The International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) announces the release of a new report, *Examining Communication and Interaction in Online Teaching*.

This report reviews the research on quality online teaching, examines school policies regarding online teaching practices, and outlines professional development programs for online teachers.

According to Susan Patrick, President and CEO of iNACOL, “Online teaching is a complex professional practice. In addition to expertise in content knowledge and teaching methodology, online teachers need specialized pedagogical approaches for advanced discussions, collaboration and interaction made possible online to increase student engagement and student learning.”

K-12 online learning is growing at 30% annually, with an estimated one million enrollments in K-12 online courses. 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, teachers are employing 21st century technology skills. From enhancing school district continuity of learning plans in the event of 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.

#

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).