



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**iNACOL President Susan Patrick Receives 2009 Outstanding Contribution to Online Learning Award**

WASHINGTON, DC, October 28, 2009 – The International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) announces that President and CEO Susan Patrick is receiving the 2009 *NDLW Outstanding Contribution to Online Learning Award*.

In recognition and in celebration of National Distance Learning Week (NDLW), November 9-13, 2009, the *NDLW Outstanding Contribution to Online Learning Award* is given annually by Drexel University to an individual who has made a long and lasting contribution, on a local, state, or national level, to the advancement of distance learning.

Patrick was nominated and is being recognized for her work in pioneering building an evidence base in K-20 online learning at the federal government, publishing National Standards of Quality for K-12 Online Learning, and advocating at the federal and state policy levels to expanding options for students to high-quality educational opportunities through e-learning --changing the way teachers teach and students learn. Past Drexel sponsored NDLW award recipients include: First Lady Laura Bush, Pennsylvania Governor Edward Rendell, and Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter.

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. Schools are using online learning and virtual schools in innovative ways to provide rigorous courses, effective teachers and more engaging curriculum and personalized instruction to students. At the same time, students are learning critical 21<sup>st</sup> century technology skills. From enhancing academic continuity plans during school closures to providing college dual-enrollment courses online within high schools, online learning is helping to keep students on track for graduating on-time and becoming college-ready.

This year's NDLW award ceremony is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2009 (10:00 am) in Philadelphia, PA.

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