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**NEW NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS SET FOR ONLINE TEACHING**  
*Report and Webinar Focus on Updating Teachers' Skills*

**VIENNA, Va. (Oct. 20)** – A committee of education experts today announced the release of new national online teaching standards to ensure that students engaged in online learning have access to quality education.

Formed by the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (*iNACOL*), the committee provided an outline for its standards in a new report, *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching, Version 2*.

“With this new report, we looked at both previously-set and current teaching standards for online and blended learning programs to determine how we could enhance teachers’ efforts for personalizing learning using digital resources,” said Susan Patrick, president of *iNACOL*. “By providing these updated standards, it is our hope that teachers will have clear guidance of the knowledge, skills and abilities that will enable them to meet the individual needs of each of their students.”

“The new standards focus on providing teachers with a set of criteria for effective online learning and aim to guarantee that the teachers are better able to understand the technology, new teaching methods and digital course content in an effort to foster an personalized online learning environment for every student,” said Patrick.

Providing an overview of the new teaching standards, *iNACOL* will hold a webinar later today to highlight the report and provide further discussion on how these new standards will affect educators involved in online learning efforts.

To register for the webinar, which is scheduled to begin at 6 PM (EST) today, please visit: [http://www.inacol.org/events/webinar/teacher\\_talk.php](http://www.inacol.org/events/webinar/teacher_talk.php)

The *National Standards for Quality Online Teaching, Version 2* is available at: [www.inacol.org](http://www.inacol.org)

**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 3,800 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)). *i*NACOL is host to the annual Virtual School Symposium (VSS). VSS 2011 is being held Nov. 9 - 11, 2011 in Indianapolis, IN ([www.virtualschoolsymposium.org](http://www.virtualschoolsymposium.org)).