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iNACOL to Host Webinar: Resources for the Online Science Teacher

VIENNA, VA, June 14, 2010 – The International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) will be hosting a Teacher Talk webinar on “Resources for the Online Science Teacher” to show how web-based resources engage students and deepen their understanding of modern scientific developments. With online and blended learning, new educational programs connect experts to students and provide relevant scientific resources at their fingertips, through online artifacts, remote laboratory equipment and real data sets provide the basis for innovative scientific curriculum and assignments.

In this webinar, Michael Apfeldorf, Director of Professional Development at the JASON Project, and Dr. Robert Steiner, the Director of Online Teacher Education Programs at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City, will provide an overview and sampling of free online resources from these two organizations and beyond. These resources include an interactive online curriculum, educational and motivational videos, digital labs, a searchable digital library, and online tools for lesson planning, assessment, that are aligned to state and national standards. They will also discuss online classroom management, new projects and more. These world-class scientific resources connect teachers and students to contemporary scientific issues, provide insight into the nature of scientific research and connect the real world of 21st century science exploration to the classroom.

According to Susan Patrick, President and CEO of iNACOL, “One visit to the Titanic through the JASON project or immersion into environmental science lessons from the American Museum of Natural History and students are easily hooked, given their natural curiosity of how the world works. The wonders of modern science from the deep sea to the expansive universe should be taught using 21st century tools. Bringing in the best of the world’s resources for science is needed to reignite a generation of students through online and blended learning using technology to captivate and connect today’s curious students. Students in the United States now rank #21 in science internationally. Re-engaging students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics at younger ages through relevant project-based learning and modern scientific investigations needs to be a priority in elementary and secondary learning.”

The JASON Project (www.jason.org) is a nonprofit subsidiary of The National Geographic Society that connects students with great explorers and great events to inspire and motivate them to learn science. JASON embeds the cutting-edge research of its partners-The National Geographic Society, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Department of Energy, and other leading organizations-into core science curricula and professional development.

The American Museum of Natural History is one of the world's preeminent scientific and cultural institutions. Since its founding in 1869, the Museum has advanced its global mission to discover,

interpret and disseminate information about human cultures, the natural world and the universe through a wide-ranging program of scientific research, education and exhibition.

This webinar will be held Thursday, June 17th, from 6:00 - 7:00 PM (Eastern) via Elluminate.

Please register online: <http://www.inacol.org/events/>. Pricing is available for members and non-members.

Press may attend free of charge by contacting iNACOL's Associate Director of Communications Wendy Fleming (wflaming@inacol.org).

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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 3,100 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 2010 is being held Nov. 14 – 16, 2010 in Glendale, AZ (www.virtualschoolsymposium.org).