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iNACOL President Susan Patrick to Testify for the Education Interim Committee in Utah

VIENNA, VA, August 18, 2010 –President and CEO of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL), Susan Patrick, will testify in Salt Lake City, Wednesday, August 18th at 2:05 PM in front of the Utah Education Interim Committee. This committee consists of members of both the Utah State Senate and the House of Representatives. Patrick will speak about the benefits of online education and field questions from the committee during her testimony.

Patrick is the former Director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education. In her testimony, she will explain what online learning is, what it isn't, its benefits, and its limitations. Students from an online school will provide a demonstration.

According to Patrick, “We can increase high-quality learning opportunities for today’s students to be prepared for college and ready to compete in the global economy. New models of student-centered learning using technology to personalize educational approaches are needed. Online learning provides this customized approach and opens new educational opportunities for students to access a world class education any time, any place.”

In the United States, virtual education is growing at 30 percent annually in K-12 schools, with an estimated 1.5 million students in online courses last year.

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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).