



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **iNACOL Announces New OER Website**

Vienna, VA, November 16, 2010 – The International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL), is pleased to announce the launch of a new, collaborative website. Learning Beyond Textbooks is a website dedicated to increasing the public’s understanding of Open Educational Resources (OER); it is located at: [www.learningbeyondtextbooks.org](http://www.learningbeyondtextbooks.org).

Content development models are changing in the 21st century. Learning materials developed with public funding should be available for public educators to share, access, and collaborate –public funds used for public good.

OER means teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use or repurposing by others. OER permits educators to customize and personalize content and instruction.

According to Susan Patrick, President and CEO of the iNACOL, “Educational materials that are developed using public funds should be made accessible to the public as OER, giving all students and teachers the ability to access, share, personalize and customize learning materials to meet each child’s unique learning needs.”

The website project was made possible by the support of the Open Society Institute and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

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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 3,800 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)). iNACOL’s mission is to ensure all students have access to world-class education and quality online learning opportunities that prepare them for a lifetime of success.