

North American Council for Online Learning

serving the K-12 community

New K-12 Organization named;

Board of Directors announced

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In response to the exploding growth in K12 online teaching and learning initiatives across North America, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have jointly funded the formation of a new organization, the North American Council for Online Learning (www.nacol.org), serving the K12 community.

The mission of NACOL is to increase educational opportunities and enhance learning by providing collegial expertise and leadership in K12 online teaching and learning. High quality online teaching and learning accompanied by expanded research in the field will be the main areas of focus for NACOL.

Months of planning and development have gone into the launch effort after several years of discussion among leaders of virtual K12 initiatives across North America. These discussions were prompted in response to the extraordinary level of inquiries and interest among individual schools and programs.

In collaboration with WCET, a board of directors was announced today which brings together thought leaders and individuals considered pioneers in K12 online learning and teaching.

The board met formally in Denver, Colorado on April 15-16 to initiate the process for hiring an executive director, and beginning the development of a near-term and long-term range strategic plan.

“We are extremely pleased with the breadth, depth and quality of this new board. Their range of experience extends from local schools to districts, educational agencies and large state initiatives,” announced Sally Johnstone, executive director for WCET in recognition of the new board. “Online teaching and learning has the real potential to transform education. NACOL will be dedicated to fostering a learning landscape that promotes student success and lifelong learning.”

The North American Council for Online Learning Board of Directors

Chair, Allan Jordan, Principal/CCS Web Academy, Director of Online Teaching and Learning
Cumberland County Schools, Fayetteville, NC

Vice-Chair, Steven Baxendale, Director, PRELStar: A Pacific Islands Distance Learning
Program, Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, Honolulu, HI

Secretary, Julie Young, Executive Director, Florida Virtual School, Orlando, FL

Treasurer, Todd Hitchcock, Technical and Information Services Officer, Durham District
School Board/Durham Virtual Campus, Whitby, Ontario

Cliff Blackerby, Director, Distance Education Services, Region IV Education Service Center,
Houston, TX

Pam Birtolo, Principal, The Sagemont Virtual School, Weston, FL

Francisco Hernandez, Executive Director, University of California College Preparatory
Initiative, Santa Cruz, CA

Stevan Kalmon, State Coordinator for K-12 Online Learning, Colorado Department of
Education, Denver, CO

Marty Karlin, Administrator, Southern Oregon Online School, Coordinator, Instructional
Technology, Southern Oregon Education Service District, Medford, OR

Peggy Kinder, Director, Distance Learning Resource Network, WestEd, Phoenix, AZ

Mary Lou Ley, Director, Wisconsin Virtual High School, Tomahawk, WI

Elizabeth Pape, Chief Executive Officer, Virtual High School, Inc., Maynard, MA

Linda Pittenger, Director, Division of Virtual Learning, Kentucky Department of Education,
Frankfort, KY

Raymond Ravaglia, Deputy Director, Stanford University, Education Program for Gifted Youth
Stanford, CA

Ron "RJ" Stefanski, Director, Business Development, Michigan Virtual University/Michigan
Virtual High School, Lansing, MI

Rosina Smith, Executive Director, Alberta Online Consortium, Calgary, Alberta

Matthew Wicks, Director of Virtual Learning, Illinois Mathematics and Science
Academy/Illinois Virtual High School, Aurora, IL

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