

## **FLVS Receives Better Government Competition Award**

*Pioneer Institute Applauds Online Program for Effective and Innovative Education Practices*

**Orlando, FL (June 25, 2008)** – Florida Virtual School’s (FLVS) commitment to improving K-12 education won the school the Better Government Competition (BGC) Award from the Pioneer Institute, an independent, non-partisan, privately funded research organization. The online program was recognized because of its focus to create equitable access to instructional excellence for students throughout Florida for more than decade.

“We are pleased to recognize FLVS as the winner of the 2008 Better Government Competition Award. For the past ten years, they have worked tirelessly to create a student-centered learning environment. As a result, more students have access to an excellent education, regardless of where they live or their socio-economic standing,” said Pioneer Institute Executive Director Jim Stergios. “The leaders at FLVS are part of a new generation of educators who are closing the achievement gap by transforming the public education system. We applaud them for their hard work, innovation and passion.”

Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> year, Pioneer Institute’s annual BGC Award showcases innovative ideas and programs to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of government. Florida Virtual School’s unique approach to learning has changed the role of the classroom experience, making achievement the constant and time the variable. Among the FLVS accomplishments highlighted by Pioneer Institute were the school’s completion rate of between 80 and 90 percent and course selection, which includes advanced placement and honors courses offered to students who might not otherwise have access to these educational options.

“Being recognized as an institution that is transforming education is truly an honor. Working one-on-one with students, our teachers strive to personalize the learning experience for each

of their students and engage them in activities where they will gain knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the global economy,” said FLVS President and CEO Julie Young. “As a partner with districts across the state, our goal is to support schools by helping their students thrive academically.”

The 2008 BGC winner was chosen from over 140 entries, submitted by businesses, government officials, and citizens from across the United States. A panel of distinguished judges chose the best submissions from the entries.

Pioneer Institute is an independent, non-partisan, privately funded research organization that seeks to change the intellectual climate in the Commonwealth by supporting scholarship that challenges the “conventional wisdom” on Massachusetts public policy issues.

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### ***About Florida Virtual School***

Florida Virtual School ([www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net)) is a nationally recognized e-Learning model for developing and providing virtual K-12 education solutions to students throughout the country. Founded in 1997 as a pilot project, FLVS began course development with limited enrollment, pioneering Florida’s first Internet-based, public high school—complete with online middle and high school curriculum.