

## Global Alliance for Transnational Education Honors Florida Virtual School Executive Director Julie Young

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**Paris, FRANCE** (Sept. 20, 2002) - The Global Alliance for Transnational Education® (GATE®), an international alliance of business, higher education and government organizations concerned with issues relating to quality assurance in transnational education, awarded the "Medallion of the Alliance" to Julie E. Young, executive director of the Florida Virtual School (FLVS), in recognition of her contributions to online learning. Young pioneered the launch of FLVS, the first statewide, online secondary school in the United States. With over 10,000 enrollments expected in the 2002-2003 school year, FLVS is the largest online high school in the world.

The Medallion of the Alliance is an award originated by Jones International™, Ltd. and granted to individuals in the industries in which the Jones companies operate who have demonstrated exceptional commitment,

competence and accomplishment. Previous recipients of the award include Dr. Pamela Pease, president of Jones International University®, the first fully online university to receive regional accreditation. Regional accreditation is the highest level of accreditation a university can obtain and is recognized throughout the United States. Dr. Pease participated in the Sept. 19 presentation of the Medallion to Young at the Palace of Versailles, where Glenn R. Jones was hosting the Chairman's Dinner as part of the seventh annual GATE conference. The conference was held Sept. 18-20 in Paris.

"For their foresight in creating Florida Virtual School and their subsequent support, we congratulate Gov. Jeb Bush, the members of the Florida Legislature, the Florida Secretary of Education and their respective staffs," said Jones, chairman and CEO of GATE and Jones International, Ltd. "On bestowing the Medallion of the Alliance, however, we especially single out and congratulate Julie Young for the stellar leadership, creativity, dedication and passion she displayed in converting the idea of FLVS into a reality. It is an example-with global implications-of what can be done by fusing technology with education.



"By her actions, Ms. Young has contributed monumentally to making the concept of the virtual secondary school visible so that others may see its potential," Jones continued. "She has made a major contribution in showing us how to actualize the idea of 'no child left behind.'"

Young pioneered the launch of FLVS with the goal of developing and providing access to high quality, online courses to students throughout the state of Florida. In the 1997-1998 school year, it was initiated by a grant from the Florida Department of Education and began with a staff of 18 and 11 online courses, serving 150 students.

Today, FLVS is an award-winning provider of Internet-based courseware for high school students in Florida and elsewhere, and its enrollments are projected to reach 10,200 for the 2002-03 school year. It has an instructional staff of 120, offers 65 courses, including honors and ten Advanced Placement courses and is affiliated with all 67 school districts in Florida, as well as numerous charter and non-public schools. It has an 80 percent completion rate and its students have exceeded both the grade point average and Advanced Placement scores of the average Florida student.

"Democratizing education on a global basis is the very core of GATE's existence," said Jones, "and online education is a powerful tool for furthering that cause. Accordingly, we thank Julie Young for what she has done and hereby commend her for doing it."

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**About GATE®**

Founded in 1995, Global Alliance for Transnational Education®, Ltd. is an association of businesses, educators, quality-assurance agencies, governments, and intergovernmental organizations that nurtures and sustains communication among education and training leaders worldwide. The organization's objectives are to develop and promulgate principles of good practice and accrediting quality transnational education and training programs; explore issues facing educational institutions in a global marketplace; provide a forum for corporations, governmental and intergovernmental entities, and educational associations and institutions to discuss education and training issues; access global information about educational systems and trends in technology-driven education; and ensure that transnational education standards keep pace with technological change. GATE is a subsidiary of Jones International(™), Ltd. GATE's international headquarters are at 9697 E. Mineral Ave., Englewood, Colo., 80112, U.S.A. Telephone: +1.303.792.3111. Web site: [www.edugate.org](http://www.edugate.org). E-mail: [gate@edugate.org](mailto:gate@edugate.org).

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**About Florida Virtual School (FLVS)**

Florida Virtual School is an internet-based, public high school offering online high school curriculum. The Florida Legislature initially funded FLVS as a pilot project in 1997 to begin course development with limited student enrollment. In 2000, the Florida Legislature enacted 228.082, FL Statute, establishing FLVS as an independent education entity with a Gubernatorial appointed governing board. FLVS is a 21st Century leader in education and is a nationally recognized e-Learning model.

Internet Users: FLVS news releases, contacts and other useful information are available on FLVS' Web site at [www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net). To receive news releases by e-mail or to request that specific information be mailed to you, please email us at [info@flvs.net](mailto:info@flvs.net)