



Julie Young **President and Chief Executive Officer**

In 1997, Julie Young pioneered the launch of Florida Virtual School with the goal of providing high quality, online courses to students throughout the State of Florida. That vision has resulted in Florida Virtual School's becoming the largest provider of Internet-based courseware and instruction for middle and high school students in Florida and around the globe.

Ms. Young began her career as a classroom teacher, and has since served as an administrator and leading e-Learning expert and advocate. Today, as the president and chief executive officer of Florida Virtual School, she directs the work of more than 1000 faculty and administrators, courseware developers, web design specialists and technology support personnel. She is a frequent national conference speaker, and has played an important role in charting the course of virtual K-12 education.

Ms. Young is the Chairman of the United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA), and serves on the boards of the North American Council for Online Learning and the Florida Learning Alliance. She is a member of the Southern Regional Education Board's Distance Learning Task Force, the Florida Taxwatch Center for Educational Performance and Accountability, and the UT TeleCampus National Advisory Board. In 2003, Ms. Young was inducted into the USDLA "Hall of Fame."

Under Ms. Young's leadership, Florida Virtual School has been recognized for its work by the National School Boards Association and the Canadian Association for Distance Education. Florida Virtual School has received the 2009 CODiE Award, the 2009 and 2007 USDLA 21st Century award for Best Practice in Distance Learning, the 2008 Better Government Competition Award from the Pioneer Institute, the EdNET 2007 Pioneer of the Year Award and the 2006 EdNET Impact award. In 2003, her school was named as one of the WebSmart Top 50 organizations by Business Week Magazine.

Ms. Young earned her Master of Science degree in Administration and Supervision from the University of South Florida, and her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from the University of Kentucky.