

Pam Birtolo

Chief Officer of Education, FLVS

Pam Birtolo brings a varied leadership background to her role as Chief Officer of Education. Pam started out working for programs that provide services for clients with mental retardation and, later, for the elderly. Eventually, Pam moved into education where she has served as a teacher, technology trainer, and principal. She began working with Florida Virtual School almost from the beginning. With the exception of a two-year hiatus where she helped launch the Sagemont School, she has remained with Florida Virtual School and played a key role in shaping the program's development.

Pam's passion for learning and adventurous spirit are evidenced by a two-year stint where she provided management and marketing services for a resort in Belize, a job she believes shaped her significantly. **"You were never 'off.' You had to figure out how to take care of customers 24/7."**

Pam loves the world of ideas and, even more, figuring out how to move from ideas to working realities. **"I get excited about the notion that we really have the ability to probe and move quickly to create change that works."** Pam believes that with the choices available to students today, they are less likely to settle for 2nd best. Students want something better, and she believes FLVS is poised to provide it. She sees herself as a change agent and believes that her passion and love for Florida Virtual School's mission and for her team are the greatest strengths she brings to the table. She has great hopes for the future of education and for FLVS. **"Because of the way we are designed, we have the opportunity to continually change to meet each generation's needs. The beauty is—if we grab hold—we can lead the way."**



Fun "Pam" facts

What was your first job? When I was little, I decided one summer that the neighborhood needed a newspaper. I was barely old enough to write cursive. I went around to all the neighbors and asked what was going on. Then I took plain white paper and wrote the stories by hand—and then rewrote lots of copies and went around and sold them.

How do you de-stress? What is a good weekend for you? We live in Flagler Beach on an inlet of the inter-coastal, so what I like to do is once I get over the bridge onto the beach, I don't leave. We're either out on the beach, or in the backyard, or on the inter-coastal—loving life.

What is your pet peeve? People who need a policy to do the right thing.

Do you read for fun? I read as much junk as I can. I go through NY Times bestseller paperbacks. I download books on my iPad. Lately, I've been reading Christopher Moore. I read pretty much constantly. We pass books around in my house too. We have our own in-house book club. I really like to read fiction because it's a constant reminder of beginnings, middles, and ends. If you read fiction, you understand cycles. It's so built in that you don't even know you understand change. You understand that everything—everything has beginnings, middles, and ends.

If you could try one new thing tomorrow, what would you try? Motorized hang gliding. I'd like to take a boat down to the Caribbean. I'd really like to travel the Greek Islands and Patagonia. And while I'm at it, I want world peace.

**Pam
Birtolo**

**Chief Learning Officer,
FLVS**

Resumé

Education:

University of South Florida, MA, English Education

DePaul University, Graduate Certificate,
Rehabilitation Administration

Southern Illinois University, BA, Spanish

Leadership Experience:

Chief Learning Officer, Florida Virtual School,
Orlando, FL

Principal, The Sagemont Virtual School, Weston, FL

Regional Director, Florida Virtual School, Orlando, FL

President, GnF Inc., Naples, FL

Assistant Manager/Marketing Director, Manta
Resort, Belize City, Belize

Director, In-home Services for the Elderly,
Key West, FL

Executive Director, Mark Mortensen Foundation,
Chicago, IL

