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## **Online Learning FLVS Launches Learning Recovery Center**

*New “One Student, One Classroom” Methodology Delivers Customized Educational Experience for All Students*

Orlando, FL (January 21, 2009) – The Learning Recovery Center, launched today by Florida Virtual School (FLVS) at the Florida Education Technology Conference, will set a new bar for providing individualized learning opportunities to students.

Built using the latest research on student engagement, the instructional practices FLVS teachers will use in the Learning Recovery Center are built upon a “One Student, One Classroom” methodology. This innovative instructional approach will allow teachers to tailor course content and activities to meet the specific needs of students. Teachers will also create authentic assignments, alternative assessments, and prescriptive instructional practices based on the learning patterns or styles of a student.

“We are a student-driven organization. Over the past ten years, we have seen a steady increase in the number of students seeking credit – or learning – recovery in our online courses,” said Pam Birtolo, Chief Learning Officer for FLVS. “By creating this new program, our goal is to give students a more finely tuned learning path.”

Many districts across the state, and nation, struggle to find viable high quality educational opportunities beyond the traditional classroom to support these students. Approximately 33 percent of annual course enrollments at FLVS are from students who

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self-report that they take online courses for credit or learning recovery. At the FLVS Learning Recovery Center, teachers will use new instructional methods to transform educational experience and help for students overcome learning obstacles. Eventually, all students at FLVS will benefit from this enhanced instructional model as FLVS phases the “One Student, One Classroom” methodology into all courses.

Tactics that will be used in the Learning Recovery Center include:

- **Diagnostic assessments:** pre-course assessments that help determine what content or skills students have mastered and where additional support is needed;
- **Alternative Pace Charts:** student-centered pace charts that offer greater flexibility for completing the course;
- **Discussion Based Assessments:** unique, individual, synchronous assessments that check for academic integrity and strengthen verbal skills;
- **Alternative Authentic Assignments/Assessments:** prescriptive learning exercises and assessments created from information collected on pre-course assessments to build upon strengths; and,
- **Synchronous Webinars:** Direct instruction activities that allow for student-to-student collaboration and synchronous learning.

The success of the new program will be monitored closely by student performance, the amount of time it takes for a student to complete a course, and student performance on course work and semester exams. Teachers will also record completion percentages and conduct internal and external surveys to measure student engagement.

Since FLVS launched in 1997 its motto has been “any time, any place, any path, any pace,” and the program has built a successful online learning environment where students earn high marks in courses and on standardized exams. “As we continue to perfect the “art” of individualized online learning, we will train all our teachers on the “One Student, One Classroom” teaching methodology,” said Birtolo.

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FLVS is also creating a Research and Laboratory School where lead teachers can pilot or explore additional instructional methods and where best practices for online prescription and differentiation can be collected.

“Learning is evolutionary and we want to make sure we are continually improving our professional development and instructional practices to meet the needs of today,” said Birtolo. “Our ultimate goal is to project how the teaching profession is changing and to make sure our teachers are always on the cutting edge.”

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**Florida Virtual School --** Florida Virtual School (FLVS) is an established leader in developing and providing virtual K-12 education solutions to students throughout the country. A nationally recognized e-Learning model, FLVS was founded in 1997 and was the country’s first, state-wide Internet-based public high school. Today, FLVS provides flexible learning options for all students, including more than 80 courses for middle and high school students. FLVS is governed by an independent educational entity with a gubernatorial appointed board and is the only public school where funding is tied directly to student performance. Additional information can be found at [www.flvs.net](http://www.flvs.net)

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