



For Immediate Release

## **Florida Virtual School Receives 2010 Best Practices in Distance Learning Programming Award**

St. Louis, MO (May 6, 2010) – The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA), the nation’s leading distance learning organization, presented Florida Virtual School (FLVS), the nation’s oldest and largest virtual school, with the 2010 Best Practices in Distance Learning Programming Award for the Gold Division. FLVS was recognized for partnering with universities to provide pre-service training and internship in online pedagogy.

“As a premier organization for the entire distance learning profession, we are honoring Florida Virtual School as a leader in the industry,” said Dr. John G. Flores, CEO of USDLA. “FLVS has raised the bar of excellence and we are truly honored by FLVS’ contributions to the distance learning industry.”

These prestigious International Awards, presented at USDLA’s annual conference, recognize organizations and individuals engaged in the development and delivery of distance learning programs. The USDLA Awards were created to acknowledge major accomplishments in distance learning and to highlight those distance learning instructors, programs, and professionals who have achieved and demonstrated extraordinary results through the use of online, videoconferencing, satellite and blended learning delivery technologies.

“We are very appreciative of this recognition from USDLA,” said Julie Young, Chair of USDLA Board of Directors and President/CEO of FLVS. “From our instructional practices to our curriculum development, we focus on developing instructional paths to help all students excel, which now includes working with universities on pre-service programs that will prepare the next generation of teachers for the online learning environment.”

FLVS was honored with the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Award for Best Practices in Distance Learning in 2009, 2007, and 2005; the Excellence in Distance Programming award in 2003, 2002, and 2000. Additionally, a number of individual teachers and administrators have received awards from the organization for exemplary teaching in the field of distance learning.

"Congratulations to Florida Virtual School and every one of this year's award winners. USDLA takes great pride and responsibility in recognizing excellence and quality that benefit the entire industry. Through distance learning, education, and training we can provide access to the world's best award-winning opportunities for school children, connect higher education students globally and transform the lives and careers of working adults. We are truly on the edge of something great, and these winners clearly demonstrate and confirm the transformative powers of distance learning globally," said Reggie Smith III, President of USDLA.

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### **About Florida Virtual School**

Florida Virtual School (FLVS) is an established leader in developing and providing virtual K-12 education solutions to students all over Florida, the U.S. and the world. A nationally recognized e-Learning model and recipient of numerous awards, FLVS was founded in 1997 and was the country's first, state-wide Internet-based public high school. Today, FLVS serves students in grades K-12 and provides a variety of custom solutions for schools and districts to meet student needs.

### **About United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA)**

The United States Distance Learning Association (USDLA) is a non-profit association formed in 1987 and is located in Boston, Massachusetts. The association reaches 20,000 people globally with sponsors and members operating in and influencing 46% of the \$913 billion dollar U.S. education and training market. USDLA promotes the development and application of distance learning for education and training and serves the needs of the distance learning community by providing advocacy, information, networking and opportunity. Distance learning and training constituencies served include pre-k-12 education, higher and continuing education, home schooling as well as business, corporate, military, government and telehealth markets. The USDLA trademarked logo is the recognized worldwide symbol of dedicated professionals committed to the distance learning industry.

<http://www.usdla.org>

### **FLVS Press Contact**

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