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Online Learning Pioneer Bruce Friend Joins North American Council for Online Learning as Vice President

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VIENNA, VA, Oct. 13 /U.S. Newswire/ -- The North American Council for Online Learning (NACOL), the nation's leading K-12 nonprofit organization in the field of online education, announced the appointment of Bruce Friend as vice president. Friend has been an e-learning practitioner and advocate for nearly a decade. His broad experience includes being a classroom and online teacher, online content developer, and chief administrator for two state-led virtual school programs.

Before joining NACOL, Friend was interim director of the North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS), where he guided the launch of North Carolina's statewide virtual school program. Previously he was chief operations officer/vice president of the Florida Virtual School.

In his position as vice president, Friend will help NACOL identify online learning program needs of states, school districts and schools, refine standards for effective online instruction and develop teacher certification recommendations.

"Bruce Friend is one of the nation's leading experts on K-12 online learning and brings to NACOL a deep commitment to expanding quality educational opportunities for all students," said NACOL President Susan Patrick.

"Online learning is opening access and opportunity for all students by providing high quality courses and highly qualified teachers over the Internet ... regardless of their neighborhood or geography," said Patrick. "The addition of Bruce to the NACOL senior staff allows us to continue to expand our services to K-12 administrators, teachers and students."

Friend is a frequent speaker about online teaching and learning issues at national and state conferences. He was the recipient of the 2003 United States Distance Learning Association's Outstanding Achievement by an Individual award. He has a graduate degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Central Florida.

NACOL (<http://www.NACOL.org>) is the premier U.S. K-12 nonprofit organization in the field of online learning, providing leadership, advocacy, research, training and networking for the online learning community. NACOL's annual meeting, the Virtual Schools Symposium "Redesign Powered by Online Learning," will be held in Dallas, Texas, Nov. 5-7.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bruce Friend is available for interviews. Head shot is available.