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Florida Virtual School® Partners with Top Universities for Learning Research

Orlando, FL (Nov. 6, 2017) – In collaboration with three of the nation’s top universities, Florida Virtual School (FLVS®) will engage in research projects to advance student success through online and blended learning methods. In research projects with the University of Florida (UF), University of Central Florida (UCF) and Stanford University, FLVS looks to discover new methodologies and ways online and blended learning can positively impact students’ success. The research will also provide FLVS the opportunity to achieve a deeper understanding on these topics while providing a platform for reflection about teaching methods, assessment, curriculum and leadership. These universities bring tools, resources, and support that are critical in research integrity and validity.

The University of Florida’s Dr. Carol Beale is working with the FLVS Research and Evaluation Department to develop a pilot incorporating a control and treatment group examining common characteristics of students who are successful in the blended environment. The FLVS team and Beale both have a wealth of experience in research and use a forward-thinking approach that incorporates new technologies while bringing research and communities together.

The FLVS Research and Evaluation Department is also working with the University of Central Florida’s Dr. Rebecca Hines on a research project in both adaptive online and blended learning. The adaptive research project will focus on the exploration of how adaptive learning methods can improve online learning with a concentration on underserved students. UCF and FLVS are also collaborating on a second research project, led by Dr. Richard Hartshorne and Dr. Nicole Damico, that concentrates on blended learning and student satisfaction.

The Project for Education Research the Scales (PERTS) at Stanford University and FLVS collaborated on a Growth Mindset Pilot. Stanford’s PERTS assisted in content development and the research component as well as providing teacher Professional Development items for all pilot teachers. This pilot focuses on teachers implementing Growth Mindset with their online students. A treatment and control group are moving side by side to allow a historical data analysis prior to and post pilot completion for comparison.

“As a leader in the online learning industry for more than 20 years, FLVS continues to look for ways to increase our knowledge and expertise in this ever-evolving digital world, so we are excited to work on these research projects alongside UCF, UF and Stanford University,” said Dr. Jodi Marshall, president & CEO of Florida Virtual School. “All three of these universities bring years of expertise and research, and combining our research and experience with theirs will hopefully allow us to better serve our online and blended learning students.”

About Florida Virtual School

[Florida Virtual School® \(FLVS®\)](http://www.flvs.net) is a fully accredited, statewide public school district offering more than 150 courses to Kindergarten-12 students. Its certified teachers use a variety of personalized instructional programs to create individualized educational plans for every student. Since 1997, FLVS students have successfully

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completed more than 3.6 million semester enrollments. FLVS also provides its courseware and expertise to online and blended learning programs across the nation. Services include content licensing, FLVS Global School, District Virtual Schools, digital learning labs, and professional development. As a not-for-profit, FLVS reinvests revenue into the development of new educational technologies and the creation of the highest-quality courses, benefiting students in Florida and beyond. To learn more, visit www.flvs.net.

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