



**For Immediate Release**

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**Lady Dr. Dhyana Ziegler Appointed Interim President/CEO of Florida Virtual School®**

**Orlando, Fla. (March 28, 2019)** – On Wednesday, March 27, 2019, in a special meeting of the Board, the Florida Virtual School (FLVS) Board of Trustees appointed Lady Dhyana Ziegler, DCJ, Ph.D., as Interim President and CEO.

Dr. Ziegler previously served as Senior Executive Director of External Affairs and Learning Innovation for FLVS. Prior to joining the FLVS team, Ziegler, a 30-year veteran of higher education, served as interim dean of the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) School of Journalism & Graphic Communication and the Garth C. Reeves Eminent Scholar Endowed Chair in Journalism at FAMU, where her focus was on ethics. She previously served as the Assistant Vice President for Instructional Technology and Academic Affairs at FAMU where she supervised the Division of Instructional Technology comprising of the Instructional Media Center, Distance Learning Programs and Activities, the Faculty Development Lab, and the Student Computer Lab from 1998-2007.

Ziegler has received numerous awards and recognitions for her contributions including being knighted as a Dame of Justice by the Chivalric Order of the Knights of Justice at the University of Cambridge, England in 2008. She is a five-time Governor of Florida Appointee to Florida Virtual School Board of Trustees and the former Board Chair. Ziegler is a two-time Appointee to the Florida Commission on the Status of Women and serves as its Chair. She serves on the Board of Trustees of Florida Tax Watch, Southern Scholarship Foundation, and is a member of the Florida Students First Education Policy Task Force.

“Dr. Ziegler is a scholar and educator who is passionate about providing educational excellence to our students,” said Robert Gidel, Chair of the FLVS Board of Trustees. “She will be instrumental in helping FLVS move forward as we determine next steps in conducting a national search for a new leader.”

“FLVS is a crown jewel in online education and innovation, not only for the state of Florida, but the entire world, as we continue to expand our outreach and goals to deliver high quality online curriculum and instruction,” said Ziegler. “I am proud of what FLVS has accomplished throughout the years and I am excited to be part of a team that always puts the needs of students first.”

In the 2017-18 school year, more than 207,000 FLVS students completed more than 490,000 semester enrollments, helping FLVS reach a milestone of 4.1 million semester completions in Florida. FLVS students continuously outperform the state in End-of-Course (EOC) exams and Advanced Placement (AP) Exams. Based on the Spring 2018 EOC assessments, FLVS students outperformed state averages on the Algebra 1, Biology 1, Civics, Geometry and U.S. History EOC Assessments. Based on the May 2018 AP Exams, FLVS students outperformed state overall averages by 11.3 percent in comparing the 15 AP courses offered by FLVS and scored above those state qualifying AP averages in 11 of the 15 courses. FLVS students performed above the national overall average by 4.1 percent in comparing the 15 AP courses offered by FLVS.

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*About Florida Virtual School*

[Florida Virtual School® \(FLVS®\)](http://www.flvs.net) is a fully accredited, statewide public school district offering more than 180 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 completed more than 4.1 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](http://www.flvs.net).

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