



Request for Proposals (RFP) Application 2012 Virtual School Symposium (VSS)

October 21-24, 2012
Hyatt New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana

The Virtual School Symposium (VSS) is hosted by the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL). The iNACOL VSS Program Committee is now seeking proposals for presentations at the conference. All proposals must be submitted online, no later than **11:59pm (Eastern) on Monday, April 23, 2012**.

There is a limit of 3 proposals per organization. Each institution or organization may submit a maximum of three RFPs to speak at VSS. If more are submitted, only the first three received will be considered.

Conference Goals:

- To provide sessions that will show how online and blended learning closes the gaps in educational opportunities that exist today for diverse groups of learners – from special needs, to at-risk, to gifted students;
- To provide professional development in K-12 online learning;
- To share research, case studies and data about what works in online learning;
- To share best practices on plans, policies, standards and evaluation of online and blended education;
- To facilitate interaction, networking, and collaboration between online school practitioners and experts in the field;
- To stretch our thinking about K-12 online and blended school strategies for improving mainstream education to ensure every student graduates with a world-class diploma to prepare them for college or beyond.

Presentation Proposal Primary Competitive Priorities

Reviewers will be looking for the following characteristics when evaluating proposals:

- **Session Learning Outcomes** – Specific goals for the session are described, and the outcomes/knowledge for what participants are

expected to leave the session with are described and how they will be met within the timeframe of the session.

- **Proposed Questions** – The session should be groundbreaking and move the field of online and blended learning forward. Key questions are identified to help design the session content. Each question should be discussed or answered throughout the session.
- **Agenda** – Explain how your session will provide networking and collaborative opportunities with the audience to share ideas and best practices with each other.
- **Resources For Participants** – Provides a checklist, list of links, or handouts as a resource for participants.
- **Format Types** - In the past, the majority of the VSS sessions have been in the Lecture format and while we will continue to have some sessions in this format, we want to encourage session proposals for one of the other formats listed in the RFP, in order to provide opportunities for greater interaction and presentation of multiple experiences and points of view.
- **Must Have Topics** – iNACOL has identified several strands to build the conference program around. In addition to these strands listed below, we have provided “must have topics” based on previous VSS attendees needs. The program committee will be looking to identify proposals that fit with these topics.
 - **Administration and Management of Online Programs**
 - Growing Your Online Program (Take to next level, Nuts & Bolts, Lessons Learned)
 - How to Start an Online Learning Program
 - Funding and Grant Writing
 - Guidance Counseling
 - Marketing and Communications
 - Quality Management of Online Programs
 - School to Home Connection (Parent Engagement and Perspectives)
 - **Competency-based Learning Pathways**
 - Policy issues
 - How to get started and implement

- Resources for practitioners
- Models
- **Curriculum and Online Course Development**
 - Online and Blended Course/Curriculum Development
 - Open Educational Resources
 - Assessment
 - Augmented Reality & Game-based Learning
- **Engaging and Motivating Students Online**
 - Working with At-Risk Students
 - Academic Integrity
 - Diversity Issues in K-12 Online Learning
 - Student-led Sessions and Projects
 - Specialized Online/Blended Courses (Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, IB, STEM, etc.)
- **Mobile Learning**
 - Using mobile learning in online and blended learning classrooms/programs
- **New Learning Models**
 - Showcasing Successful Models of Online and Blended Learning
 - Competency-based pathways
 - Game-based Learning
- **Online and Blended Learning: Topics for Teachers**
 - Best Practices for Teaching Online
 - Topic Discussions on various teaching methods and tools for teaching online
 - Virtual Science and Labs

- Online Subject Areas (Math, English, Social Studies, Foreign Languages, PE, Science)
- Learning Analytics
- Online Learning in the Elementary Grades
- **Policy/Advocacy**
 - National Update on K-12 Online Learning
 - Policy Reform/Legislative Updates
 - International Update
 - Funding Issues
 - Competency-based Pathways
- **Professional Development for Teaching Online**
 - Professional Development (New teachers, Ongoing, Certification Programs)
- **Quality Assurance**
 - Standards for online and blended learning
 - Accreditation
 - Assessment
- **Research and Evaluation**
 - New Research
- **Special Student Populations**
 - Gifted
 - ELL
 - Special Education
- **State Virtual Schools**
 - Best Practices
 - Issues
 - Collaboration

- **Supporting Over-age, Under-credited Youth: Credit Recovery and More**
 - Credit Recovery Programs
 - Best practices for working with these students
- **Technology**
 - Emerging Technologies
 - How to Select an LMS and hands on sessions
 - Supporting Student Information Systems & Data
 - Using Web 2.0 Tools in Online and Blended Courses
 - Mobile Learning
 - Gesture-based Computing

The application and all content herein are the intellectual property of iNACOL for iNACOL use only.

Proposals will be accepted until 11:59pm EST on Monday, April 23, 2012.

All proposals must be submitted using the application available on the iNACOL website at: <http://vssrfp.inacol.org>. You may save your submission and go back to edit it until the deadline at 11:59 PM (Eastern), April 23, 2012.

Submit all questions to:
Dr. Fred Sagester, Program Committee Chair
Email: vssrfp@inacol.org

