



**For Immediate Release**

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### **FLVS® Board of Trustees Elects New Chair**

**Orlando, FL (June 21, 2017)** – The Florida Virtual School® (FLVS) Board of Trustees (BOT) elected BOT Member Robert Gidel, Sr. as its new chairman on June 13, 2017. Gidel steps into the position, effective immediately, following a two-year term of Board Chair by Dr. Dhyana Ziegler. Ziegler will remain on the BOT as a member.

Gidel, who has been on the FLVS BOT since September 2015, is the managing partner of Liberty Capital Advisors, a Florida LLC. A graduate of the Warrington College of Business at the University of Florida, he was elected a life member of the Board of Directors of the University of Florida Foundation and was past chairman of the Finance Committee. He was also elected Distinguished Director of the Board of Directors of Gator Boosters, Inc. and most recently served as its president. Gidel now serves on the Board of Directors of the University of Florida Investment Corporation. He was the Founding Chair of the Board of Trustees of Florida Polytechnic University. Gidel was also elected a Hoyt Fellow and is a past member of the Hankamer School of Business Advisory Board at Baylor University. He is a member of the Board of Directors and was elected vice-chairman of the James Madison Institute in Tallahassee, Florida and the Florida House in Washington, DC. Gidel was previously on the Statewide Board of Directors of Workforce Florida and was previously a member of the Board and past chairman of the Investment Advisory Council to the State Board of Administration in Tallahassee.

Other members of the FLVS Board of Trustees are:

- Linda Pellegrini, FLVS BOT Vice Chair and president of Pellegrini Homes
- Iris Gonzalez, senior manager, State Government Affairs – Tampa Bay Region, Charter Communications
- Robert Saltsman, attorney and certified public accountant with Saltsman, Charlton & Associates P.A.

“We are grateful to Dr. Ziegler for her leadership and guidance over the last couple of years and her strong dedication to educational excellence,” said Ronald Blocker, president and CEO of Florida Virtual School. “Under Mr. Gidel’s leadership, the FLVS Board of Trustees is positioned to continue that path of excellence with a strong strategic commitment to serving Florida’s youth.”

“I am honored to be named Chair of the Board of Trustees for Florida Virtual School,” said Gidel. “I look forward to continuing our work in positioning FLVS at the forefront of this ever-changing educational landscape.”

In the 2015-16 school year, Florida Virtual School students completed more than 470,000 semester enrollments, helping FLVS reach a milestone of 3.1 million semester completions in the state of Florida. FLVS Global has extended its reach to students and clients in all 49 states outside of Florida and in 65 countries worldwide.

#### **About FLVS**

[Florida Virtual School® \(FLVS®\)](#) 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 completed more than 3.1 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).