



For Immediate Release

Media Contact:

Tania Clow, 407-513-3627, tclow@flvs.net

**Florida Virtual School® Announces 2016 Teacher of the Year and
2015 School-Related Employee of the Year**

Orlando, FL (Feb. 12, 2015) – Florida Virtual School (FLVS®), a statewide public school district in Florida, recently announced the FLVS representatives for the 2016 Florida Department of Education-Macy’s Teacher of the Year and the 2015 Florida School-Related Employee of the Year awards. Representing FLVS as Teacher of the Year is Caroline Jacobson and representing FLVS as School-Related Employee of the Year is Suzette Soldate.

Caroline Jacobson, Spanish instructor for FLVS and a resident of Jacksonville, FL, will compete against her peers from school districts across the state to be recognized as the Florida Department of Education-Macy’s Teacher of the Year. Jacobson, who has been with FLVS for four years, is a dynamic, student-centered instructor who is dedicated to delivering high-quality educational experiences for each individual student. In addition to teaching Spanish, Jacobson has been working on creating, designing and implementing new Spanish 3 and 4 curriculum for FLVS in accordance with Florida Standards.

“I am truly humbled and grateful to represent our amazing teachers as the Florida Virtual School Teacher of the Year,” said Jacobson. “Every day, we have the privilege to make an everlasting impact on our students’ lives. I am grateful for this incredible opportunity to represent our remarkable teachers as we work together to instill a true love of learning in all of our students.”

The Florida Department of Education-Macy’s Teacher of the Year is chosen from district nominees by a selection committee comprised of teachers, principals, parents and the business community. Florida’s top educator is selected on the basis of demonstrating outstanding accomplishments in teaching, the ability to communicate with other educators and stakeholders, and exceptional professional and community service. The winner must also show a superior capacity to inspire a love of learning in students of all backgrounds and abilities.

Suzette Soldate, Executive Assistant for FLVS and a resident of Orlando, FL, will compete against other district winners to be considered for the statewide Florida School-Related Employee of the Year award. Soldate, who never backs down from a challenge and strives to always provide the best customer service possible, has been with FLVS for three years and serves the Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and Executive Director of Talent Management. When asked how she felt about being considered for this honor, Soldate replied: “When I was a young girl, I didn’t know what I wanted to be when I grew up; all I knew was that I wanted to help people and make the world a better place. Working at FLVS allows me to do just that. I’ve heard directly from parents about the positive impact FLVS has had not only on their children, but on their entire families. We are really changing lives here at FLVS by offering an alternate means of education to students. I feel that I am right where I’m meant to be, and I could not be more proud to be considered for an award for doing what I love.”

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The Florida School-Related Employee of the Year program recognizes outstanding education support personnel for their contributions to their schools and communities. The program honors one state representative and four finalists who have demonstrated exceptional skill and dedication in the performance of their jobs, thereby earning them the respect and admiration of students, teachers, administrators, co-workers and parents.

For more information about the Florida Department of Education-Macy's Teacher of the Year and the Florida School-Related Employee of the Year programs, visit <http://www.fldoe.org/default.asp>.



***Caroline Jacobson, Spanish instructor
for Florida Virtual School***



***Suzette Soldate, executive assistant
for Florida Virtual School***

About Florida Virtual School

Florida Virtual School (FLVS) is an established leader in developing and providing virtual Kindergarten-12 education solutions to students all over Florida, the United States and the world. A nationally recognized e-learning model and recipient of numerous awards, FLVS was founded in 1997 and was the country's first, statewide Internet-based public high school. Today, FLVS serves students in grades Kindergarten-12 and provides a variety of custom solutions for schools and districts to meet student needs. For more information on FLVS, visit www.flvs.net.

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