

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **New Master's Degree at University of St. Francis Responds to Growing Demand for Online Program**

JOLIET, Illinois — May 12, 2009 – University of St. Francis College of Education introduces a new online option for their Teaching and Learning Master's Degree program.

The Teaching and Learning Master of Science Degree is specifically designed for practitioners who desire to remain in the classroom and enhance their craft while earning an advanced degree. Beginning June 2009, the University of St. Francis will offer new online programming options in partnership with Performance Learning Systems, Inc. The launch of this new endeavor will provide educators with the option to self-select course delivery methods to meet their needs. Students can choose a combination of site-based and online courses or select the convenience of completing the degree completely online.

"The University of St. Francis is excited to bring our excellent Teaching and Learning program to a broader audience via online course delivery," said Michael Vinciguerra, Ph.D., USF President. "The program has proven to help teachers make a difference with the students they teach. Now more teachers can benefit from the program and better meet the challenges presented in today's classrooms."

The Master of Science degree consists of a 36 credit-hour plan of study. The program combines 18 hours of USF core courses with 18 elective hours to be selected from the menu of PLS courses available. Students work directly with an advisor to develop a personalized course sequence and pace for completion.

For more information about the degree program or general admissions requirements, contact University of St. Francis at (815) 740-5655 or visit [www.plsweb.com/usfmat](http://www.plsweb.com/usfmat). Summer registration is currently open.

#### **ABOUT UNIVERSITY OF ST. FRANCIS**

The University of St. Francis has established a proud tradition of preparing high quality educators since 1925 when the College of St. Francis first began offering courses in education. Over the years, hundreds of our graduates have contributed to our legacy of quality by serving in various roles in the public and private schools. While the College of Education has enjoyed tremendous growth, it remains dedicated to its original mission: "to prepare competent and caring educators who understand students, serve the community and develop professionally to become ethical decision-makers and leaders." Participants enrolled in PLS courses are encouraged to visit the USF website at [www.stfrancis.edu/ed](http://www.stfrancis.edu/ed) to learn more about the PLS Collaborative Teaching and Learning Master's Degree offered online and at local cohort sites.

The University of St. Francis, College of Education is accredited by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

#### **ABOUT PERFORMANCE LEARNING SYSTEMS, INC.**

Performance Learning Systems, Inc. (PLS) is a comprehensive educational-services company that has been in the business of designing quality graduate education courses since 1969. PLS offers a range of services that collectively support the learning needs of practicing educators through on-site and online graduate courses, professional development services, and published products.

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