

For Immediate Release

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Florida Virtual School® and Mawi Learning Offer New Suite of Student Success Courses

ORLANDO, Fla. (Nov. 11, 2014) – In celebration of National Distance Learning Week (Nov. 10-14, 2014) Florida Virtual School (FLVS®) announced an expanded collaboration with Mawi Learning to offer students courses designed to enhance student success. Recently, the *Peer Counseling* and the *Career Research and Decision Making* courses came online, joining the award-winning *Leadership Skills Development* course to create a [powerful suite of courses](#) for FLVS students.

Peer Counseling aims to help English-language learner (ELL) students develop confidence, build pride in their culture, achieve their goals and help their peers succeed. Throughout the half-credit course, students are coached by Mawi Asgedom, a former ELL student who earned a scholarship to Harvard and is now a student leadership expert who has trained more than 1 million students.

The lessons, which are accessible on PC, Mac and tablets, cover topics such as time management, goal-setting, community impact, social networking, college readiness and pride in one's heritage. Students learn through engaging interactive tools, videos and examples. Welcome videos and video summaries of each lesson are provided in English, Spanish and Creole. Special vocabulary words are highlighted throughout the course.

Surveys show that 91 percent of students say the *Peer Counseling* course increased their pride in their families and cultures while 94 percent say the course helped them with their other classes.

"We are thrilled to expand our offerings, including one to our ELL students," said Jodi Marshall, executive vice president, Business and School Solutions for FLVS. "Together with Mawi Learning, we have designed a course that will help students not only further develop their English-speaking abilities, but also become more confident, as well as mindful of how they can help their peers succeed and vice versa."

The *Career Research and Decision Making* course is designed to help high school students draw their roadmap for life beyond high school. In this half-credit course, students gain insight on college readiness, acceptance and funding. Students explore different career and education pathways, study interview techniques and networking tips, create smart resumes and learn how to plan for a successful future. Students are also coached throughout the course by Asgedom.

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Leadership Skills Development is designed to inspire and equip students in grades 9-12 with outside-the-box talents by tapping Mawi Learning’s world-class expertise in leadership training. The two-semester course will empower students by offering them the tools to take action and chart their future goals. It will put students on the path to achieving self-understanding and self-actualization, by providing them with the leadership skills they need to succeed in life; such as real-world problem solving, sharper decision making, crisp communication, an improved ability to flourish in group settings, time and stress management, team building and more. Students also learn parliamentary procedure and its underlying foundation of cooperative action.

“Our goal is to inspire students to thrive and to graduate,” Asgedom said. “These skills – learning to take action, set goals, manage time – are going to help student succeed in all areas of their lives.”

Students completing the *Peer Counseling, Career Research and Decision Making, or Leadership Skills Development* courses will be able to fulfill their virtual learning requirement per Florida’s Digital Learning Act. For more information on the suite of FLVS and Mawi Learning courses please visit www.flvs.net/mawilearning.

Students interested in registering in one of the three Mawi Learning courses or any of the other more than 140 courses FLVS offers should visit www.flvs.net.

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.

About Mawi Learning

Mawi Learning increase the academic, career, and life opportunities of students through leadership and character training in bedrock areas such as time management, goal-setting, mindsets, and grit. Mawi Learning’s books, online courses, and trainings have been used more than 1 million students at more than 1,000 schools. For more information on Mawi Learning, visit www.MawiLearning.com

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