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## **Excelsior Software Launches Comprehensive Grants and Funding Program to Support Educators' Efforts in Boosting Student Achievement**

*Initiative Helps Educators Build and Maintain Relationships with Key Funding Sources to Ensure Sustainable Programming*

GREELEY, Colo. (June 12, 2008) – To help educational institutions obtain financial support for sustainable standards-based learning programs, Excelsior Software is launching a comprehensive grants and funding program. The goal of this initiative is to support educators and district administrators as they leverage technology to strengthen student success and improve teacher effectiveness.

Excelsior Software understands that teaching has proven to be more effective when educators have access to a complete picture of student and class performance. Believing that technology's role in providing this type of feedback is key to the learning process, Excelsior Software is dedicated to providing educators the data they need to make informed decisions about their instruction. To help educators and students benefit from their investment in a systemic approach to standards-based learning, Excelsior Software will work with schools and districts nationwide to access the funding required to build these programs and to provide the professional development training needed during and after the technology has been implemented.

“This initiative is more than a grants program,” said Ferdi Serim, Grants Manager for Excelsior Software. “We will work with school and district coordinators to develop strong proposals for state, federal and foundation-based resources. By leveraging their investment in standards-based learning and by finding the intersection between the mission of the sources providing the funds and the school or district's goals, we will help them to develop and strengthen the relationships that are required for sustainable endeavors.”

The company's Pinnacle Suite, which includes the leading standards-based gradebook and rich tools for analyzing student progress information, ensures educators and administrators have access to the relevant data, information and resources they need to inform decisions about each student's learning environment.

Excelsior Software appointed Serim as Grants Manager to help seek and secure funding for schools and districts dedicated to benefiting from a standards-based learning environment. Serim's experience as a board member of the International Society for Technology in

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Education (ISTE), the Consortium for School Networking (CoSN), on the advisory board of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, as the Ed Tech Director for the New Mexico Public Education Department, and as a classroom teacher, make him uniquely qualified to provide educators and administrators with access to the sources and tools they need.

### **About The Pinnacle Suite**

The company's Pinnacle Suite provides educators the tools and real-time data needed to have a meaningful impact on student performance from one comprehensive online solution: the industry's premier standards-based gradebook; intuitive tools to effectively create, manage and align content, assessments, curriculum, standards, and supplemental learning resources; advanced reporting and analytics technology. Excelsior works with educators in nearly 1,000 districts nationwide, and its Pinnacle system is the sole student assessment software product recommended by internationally recognized educator, scholar, author and expert in the field of standards-based grading and assessment, Robert J. Marzano, Ph.D.

### **About Excelsior Software**

Based in Greeley, Colo., Excelsior Software is committed to raising student achievement by providing immediate access to performance information, increasing teacher productivity and improving communication. As the pioneer of the electronic gradebook concept in 1986, the company's experience in assessment management supports educators by delivering the technical innovations that meet the needs of today's evolving data-driven educational system. Excelsior Software is a wholly owned subsidiary of GlobalScholar, a member of the Knowledge Universe family of companies. For more information, please visit <http://www.excelsiorsoftware.com> or phone 800-473-4572.

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