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Excelsior Software Announces Extensive Expansion to the Pinnacle Suite

Cutting-edge Suite of Products Seamlessly Links Curriculum, Formative and Summative Assessments, and Supplementary Resources to Directly Impact Student Achievement

GREELEY, Colo. (June 30, 2008) – Committed to positively impacting student outcomes, Excelsior Software announces an extensive expansion to its Pinnacle Suite of products. The Pinnacle Suite now allows administrators and educators to access and manage curriculum, formative and summative assessments, and supplementary resources through one flexible, easy-to-use system.

“Today’s school districts face challenges in finding solutions to help map and deliver standards-aligned curriculum, offer quality professional development, aid educators in closing the achievement gap, allow administrators to measure progress across all levels and engage parents in their child’s education,” said William Zaggle, President of Excelsior Software. “The Pinnacle Suite now offers educators and administrators one single interface to access the tools and data they need to accomplish these goals and to make decisions that directly affect the student learning experience.”

The Pinnacle Suite integrates four main modules seamlessly:

- Standards & Curriculum Content (curriculum mapping and standards)
- Instruction – Activities and Resources (lessons, assessments, supplemental resources, including a global learning community)
- Assessments – Formative, Summative (gradebook)
- Feedback & Remediation (data analytics)

The company’s electronic gradebook remains the core of the Pinnacle Suite. A combination of tools built and implemented by Excelsior Software for more than 20 years, others developed by GlobalScholar, and newly designed features, the Pinnacle Suite allows educators to access curriculum, assessments and supplemental resources through the industry’s premier standards-based gradebook. Now the central data collection point, educators can augment classroom resources with online supplemental resources that are tagged to objectives, and conduct more frequent formative assessments to determine student progress.

In addition, the Pinnacle Suite allows site and district administrators to implement a consistent grading policy, offering the most comprehensive, standards-based assessment and grading solution available. Allowing school and district decisions to be made in real-time, powerful analytics technology provides administrators a higher order of data functionality for critical reporting – turning data into actionable insights.

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“The Pinnacle-GlobalScholar solution will be a tremendous resource for our staff,” said Jeff White, Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services at Fort Osage School District in Independence, Mo. “The software promotes a greater understanding of curriculum development, formative assessment and quality instruction, offering our staff increased opportunities for collaboration. The Pinnacle Suite also facilitates an efficient means of developing assessments and recording student performance data, enabling staff to spend more time analyzing the attainment of identified learning objectives. This analysis is essential for differentiating instruction to meet the diverse needs of all of our students.”

The system also encourages parent participation by offering a user-friendly parent portal where educators can share student feedback and remediation goals, building an extended, supportive learning community.

“Equally important, if not more, students have the opportunity to view their progress towards self-set learning goals,” continued White. “The GlobalScholar software, in combination with the Pinnacle Gradebook and the Suite’s other modules, enhances two- and three-way communication among students, parents, and teachers. With this complete set of tools, we see our district’s vision for student empowerment, personalized learning and family involvement is now a reality.”

The expanded Pinnacle Suite is available for the 2008-2009 school year with pricing based on student enrollment. For more information about the Pinnacle Suite, visit www.excelsiorsoftware.com

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 Software 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.

About GlobalScholar

Headquartered in Bellevue, Wash., GlobalScholar is committed to providing students of all ages the confidence and control they need to make informed decisions about their education. The company develops products that effectively integrate and align the resources of education – people, technology and content – to improve efficiency and performance. GlobalScholar’s consumer products include CollegeFinder, SchoolFinder, and GlobalScholar.com where students can select and interact with highly qualified online tutors, or take self-paced courses. GlobalScholar.com is backed by Ignition Partners and Knowledge Universe Education. For more information, please visit <http://www.globalscholar.com> or phone 877-824-4040.

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