



**EXCELSIOR
SOFTWARE**

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NEWS RELEASE

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21st Annual SIIA Codie Competition Yields Honors for Excelsior Software

Pinnacle Plus takes top honors in the “Best Student Information System or Gradebook” category

GREELEY, COLO. (May 19, 2006) – Partnering with school districts across the nation, Excelsior Software is providing the technology tools to help educators make the theories of data-driven decision making and informed instruction a reality. In recognition of these advancements in meaningful data usage and increased educator productivity, Excelsior Software has earned top honors in the prestigious Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) 21st Annual Codie Awards.

Excelsior’s Pinnacle Plus solution was named the winner in the “Best Student Information System or Gradebook” category. Additionally, the company’s District Data Analyzer (DDA) was a finalist in the “Best Solution for Education Enterprise” category.

Pinnacle Plus, the standards-based assessment management system that has been adopted by some of the largest school districts in the nation, has been instrumental in raising student achievement by providing parents and educators instant access to student progress information, increasing classroom productivity, and improving home-to-school communication. DDA, meanwhile, uses cutting-edge analytics technology to bring together disparate data sources—providing a fully integrated, customized tool for analyzing and reporting student, classroom and district-wide data at the school, district and state levels. Using DDA, educators can quickly and easily examine and distribute student information to see a clear, broad picture of a class, school or district.

These honors mark the second consecutive year that Excelsior Software has been recognized for its achievements by SIIA. In 2005, Pinnacle Plus earned the rare distinction of being named a finalist in two categories of the 20th Annual Codie Awards: “Best Classroom Instructional Management Solution” and “Best Gradebook or Student Information System for K-12 or Postsecondary.”

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“Our customer districts fully understand the power of data-driven decision making and its ability to impact student achievement,” said Douglas Lidiak, co-founder of Excelsior Software. “We designed the Pinnacle Plus system first of all to help teachers manage their time, and secondly to allow schools to use student performance information to immediately address problems and increase student achievement. Our customers repeatedly tell us that Excelsior is making a difference daily in their classrooms, and these honors are a rewarding affirmation of that fact.”

Established in 1986, the Codie Awards remain the standard-bearer for celebrating outstanding achievement and vision in the software, digital content and education technology industries. Through a unique combination of journalist and peer review, the Codie Awards recognize 71 categories of outstanding products and services, as well as corporate excellence and philanthropy.

The 348 finalists in the 2006 Codie Awards competition represent a wide and impressive array of technology and business excellence, passion and success. Winners were chosen from more than 1,026 nominations submitted by more than 500 companies – breaking the nominations record set in the 2005 awards.

The 2006 Codie Awards were presented at a gala event on May 16 at the Westin St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco, Calif.

For more information about the award-winning Pinnacle Plus system or District Data Analyzer, visit www.excelsiorsoftware.com.

About SIIA

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to more than 800 leading software and information companies. For further information, visit www.sii.net.

About Excelsior Software

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, Excelsior’s experience in assessment management supports educators by delivering the technical innovations that meet the needs of today’s evolving data-driven educational system. The company’s Pinnacle Plus software solution automatically tracks and reports student progress and attendance data to educators and parents at the individual, group, class, school, and district levels. Currently, Excelsior works with educators in nearly 1,000 districts nationwide, and its Pinnacle Plus solution is the sole student assessment software product recommended by the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). Excelsior remains privately owned by its original founders, with company headquarters in Greeley, Colo. For more information, visit www.excelsiorsoftware.com or phone 1-800-473-4572.

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