

NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact:
Eileen Demers
Excelsior Software
800-473-4572, ext. 149
edemers@excelsiorsoftware.com

For immediate release
Bonnie Sierlecki
C. Blohm & Associates, Inc.
608-839-9800
bonnie@cblohm.com

Assessment Expert Robert Marzano Collaborates With Excelsior Software to Drive Grading Practice

Expert's philosophies come to life through Excelsior's Pinnacle Plus system

(GREELEY, COLO. – JUNE 29, 2005) Excelsior Software, the leading provider of meaningful assessment tools for K-12 schools, announces a new partnership with Robert J. Marzano, Ph.D., leading assessment expert and internationally respected educational researcher, trainer and author. With the inception of NCLB and the movement toward standards-based instruction and assessment, Dr. Marzano has been a pioneer in developing and advocating alternative methods of grading that more precisely pinpoint individual student strengths and weaknesses.

Through the technology of Excelsior's Pinnacle Plus assessment management system, schools will have the ability to put Marzano's grading theories into practice. From his years of assessment research, Marzano advocates for precise and efficient grading that is amenable to specific feedback. He argues that providing a framework for improving student performance – instead of simply “labeling” learning at periodic intervals – has the greatest capacity to impact student achievement. Marzano further maintains that schools employ technology, such as the Pinnacle Plus system, to not only enhance and streamline the grading process, but also to help students and parents remain informed about progress and stay involved in the education process.

For a number of years, the Pinnacle Plus system has been incorporating many of Marzano's philosophies and methodologies into the standard functionality of its electronic gradebook. “Pinnacle Plus is currently the only system of its kind that allows teachers to analyze student grade data authoritatively and accurately,” said Marzano. “It provides the greatest flexibility. With Pinnacle, teachers can utilize what I believe to be the most sophisticated approach to standards-based record keeping in the industry.”

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Through his collaboration with Excelsior, Marzano hopes to provide more districts with the tools to effectively track student proficiency towards standards. With Dr. Marzano's guidance and input, Excelsior will continue to expand the capabilities of the Pinnacle Plus system. By incorporating Marzano's ground-breaking research and ideas, Excelsior can provide practical classroom and administrative tools designed to help educators and their students succeed.

For more information, visit www.excelsiorsoftware.com.

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 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.

About Robert Marzano

Robert J. Marzano, Ph.D. is the author of more than 20 books, 150 articles and chapters in books, and more than 100 curriculum guides and related materials for teachers and students in grades K-12. His works include *Transforming Classroom Grading*, *Classroom Management that Works*, *What Works in Schools: Translating Research into Action*, and multiple other publications. Over his 35 years in education, Dr. Marzano has worked in every U.S. state and a host of countries in Europe and Asia. The central theme of his work has been translating research and theory into practical programs and tools for K-12 teachers and administrators. A highly respected educational consultant and researcher, he is a senior scholar at Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) in Aurora, Colo; an associate professor at Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wis.; President of Marzano & Associates, Inc; and Vice President at Pathfinder Education. For more information, visit www.marzanoandassociates.com.

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