In June of 2012, the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission formally adopted the Excelsior Recognition program. The Excelsior Recognition is awarded to Florida criminal justice agencies which have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to the Florida accreditation process. An important focus of this initiative was to develop a non-subjective recognition program that recognizes agencies with criteria based upon two key benchmarks.

**Commitment to Accreditation** - Candidate agencies shall have been awarded five successful reaccreditation cycles by the Commission; and

**Excellence in Accreditation** - A candidate agency’s reaccreditation interval shall only be credited toward this new recognition status if conditions were not assessed by the Commission.

With these criteria in place, the committee recommended the name of this new exceptional level of achievement would be **Excelsior Recognition**. The word Excelsior is a Latin adjective meaning “higher” or “loftier,” used in English as an interjection with a poetic meaning of “ever upward.”

Today, the Excelsior Recognition program recognizes some of the finest criminal justice agencies in the State of Florida, and a demonstrated level of commitment to the Florida Accreditation process unparalleled in the criminal justice profession.

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.” - Aristotle