The English Language Institute at the University of South Florida has been accredited by the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA).

CEA is a specialized agency for the accreditation of intensive English-as-a-Second-Language programs and institutions in the United States. It is the first national accrediting agency to be formed for the singular purpose of accrediting programs in universities and colleges as well as independent English language schools that prepare non-English speaking international students to enter the higher education system in the United States or to pursue professional goals.

"We're thrilled to be one of the first programs to receive national accreditation," said ELI Director Dr. Jeffra Flaitz. "We've got an outstanding program and an exceptional faculty and staff who worked hard to bring us to this happy day." In addition, ELI will celebrate its 25th anniversary in March 2003.

The ELI offers an intensive 25-hour/week program in "English for academic purposes" to approximately 300 students per year from some 35 different countries. The curriculum is designed to help learners develop skill in listening to lectures and taking lecture notes, conducting library and Internet research and preparing a research paper, reading university-level texts, making formal class presentations, and understanding U.S. and university culture. ELI instructors also work with their students on strengthening their study skills and learning strategies.

Programs and institutions that seek accreditation by CEA undergo a rigorous review. The ELI was required to evaluate its compliance with the CEA Standards for English Language Programs and Institutions by submitting a self-study report to CEA. The extensive report required the contributions of virtually the entire ELI staff and faculty over a period of 18 months.

One of the highlights of the program, according to the commissioners, is ELI's role as a research and teaching lab. The Institute's dedication to the professional development of its instructional staff and the generation of new knowledge about second language acquisition impressed the reviewers, along with the dynamism of the curriculum, the high quality of student services, and the professionalism of the staff and faculty.

For more information about the ELI, visit the Institute's website at www.cas.usf.edu/eli. To learn more about CEA, visit the CEA web site at www.cea-accredit.org.

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