



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 3, 2006

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**National Black MBA Association unveils “Winning” as
2006 theme for professional and wealth development**

WASHINGTON (February 3, 2006) – The National Black MBA Association (NMBBAA), the country’s largest minority business professional organization, is embarking on a series of special networking and career development events across the country this year to culminate this fall in Atlanta at the group’s 28th annual conference and exposition.

“Winning” is the group’s conference theme this year; in Education, Entrepreneurship, Career, Leadership and Lifestyle. In support of that theme, the organization has scheduled a variety of events designed to groom more “business champions!”

“Our organization is rededicated to providing opportunities for professional and leadership development for executives, entrepreneurs and community leaders,” said NMBBAA CEO and President Barbara Thomas. “We have renewed our focus and expect to expand awareness of our organization’s commitment, and status, as a champion of leadership development and involvement with the communities from which our membership is drawn,” she said.

The campaign commences this February when Thomas takes her message of education, wealth development and other issues of involving minorities and women in the workplace to several prominent universities. The college tour includes:

- Duke University - February 4;
- Hofstra University - February 22;
- Harvard University - February 24;
- Stanford University - March 11;

In St. Paul, Minnesota Feb. 14th-15th, the NMBBAA’s Twin Cities chapter – one of 39 across the country – is hosting the Midwest’s premiere diversity education and training event, the 2006 Multicultural Forum, at the University of St. Thomas College of Business.

On March 30th, Dallas will host the NMBBAA's Local Empowerment Initiative (LEI), a national program that offers the best of the annual conference in select local markets where attendees have the opportunity to hear from the nation's foremost thought leaders, dialogue with industry experts and explore cutting edge technologies. Stedman Graham, author of two New York Times bestsellers will give the keynote address in Dallas.

"We want to make it possible for a wider range of persons to benefit from the best programming from the National Conference," Thomas said.

The NMBBAA has scheduled its annual Golf and Spa Retreat this year on April 21st- 23rd in sunny Orlando. Members traditionally flock to the event for networking and rejuvenation.

In addition, there will be a renewed focus on marketing of Ntential, - a subscription online career development tool that offers professional career resources, assessment and personal career coaching.

The highlights of the various activities around the country are a prelude to the organization's premiere event, the 28th Annual Conference and Exposition to be held Sept. 26th – Oct. 1st in Atlanta at the Georgia World Congress Center.

Celebrating its 36th anniversary this year, the National Black MBA Association is dedicated to creating partnerships that result in intellectual and economic wealth in the black community. With more than 6,000 members, the association, which is headquartered in Chicago, represents more than 100,000 MBA graduates. The NMBBAA has 39 local chapters across the United States. For more information on the NMBBAA , please visit www.nmbbaa.org.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 14, 2006

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**“Reallionaire” Farrah Gray, Keynote at National Black MBA
Association Houston Chapter’s 9th Annual Leadership Empowerment
Scholarship Fundraiser Banquet**

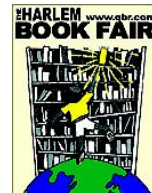
HOUSTON---The Houston Chapter of the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA) will host its ninth annual Leadership Empowerment Scholarship Fundraiser Banquet on Thursday, February 23 at the Power Center in Houston. This year’s event begins at 6 p.m. with a silent auction to raise funds in support of educational initiatives for students. This year's theme is "Connecting the Dots to Success." The annual event is part of the Houston Chapter’s work as a champion of leadership and involvement with the community from which its membership is drawn. It is also a way to strengthen the ties among the Association’s members, corporate partners and the local community.

Leadership Empowerment awards will be presented to the following individuals who have demonstrated outstanding achievement and service to the community: James J. Donatto (Entrepreneurship), US District Judge Ken Hoyt (Government), Antoinette M. “Toni” Jackson, Esq.(Community), Dr. Edith Irby Jones (Science/Health), Superintendent Carolyn Guess (Education) and Khambrel Marshall (Media/Entertainment). The Houston Chapter will also present its “Corporate Partner of the Year” award.

Farrah Gray, 21-year old, self-made millionaire and author of *Reallionaire: Nine Steps to Becoming Rich from the Inside Out*, will be the keynote speaker. Gray addresses more than half a million people per year on leadership, personal development, diversity, strategic planning, creativity, business development and financial management.

Tickets for the Leadership Empowerment Scholarship Fundraiser are \$40 per person or \$500 for a reserved table for 10 people. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Tickets may be purchased via PayPal online at www.houstonblackmba.org. For more information please call (713) 866-6573 or visit online.

The Houston Chapter of the National Black MBA Association was formed in 1983. The organization has empowered African Americans who aspire to pursue both undergraduate and graduate degrees in the field of business. The chapter has also provided scholarships to more than 200 deserving undergraduate and graduate students totaling nearly \$500,000 in awards.



MEDIA FACT SHEET

A CELEBRATION OF READING, LITERACY and BUFFALO'S HISTORY

Bookmark your calendar for **Saturday, July 8, 2006** when the Harlem Book Fair Buffalo Committee hosts the nationally celebrated **Harlem Book Fair (HBF)**. The renowned festival, making its second visit to downtown Buffalo, is customized for Buffalo and will highlight the city's diverse rich cultural and historical experience.

EVENTS: A Two-Day Literary Celebration – July 7 and July 8, 2006

Friday, July 7, 2006 - (5-7pm) Special Guest author and Illustrator presentation at the **Albright Knox Art Gallery's Gusto at the Gallery** (Theme Harlem Renaissance).

Friday, July 7, 2006 at 8-11pm - join us at the **2006 Literary Gala** – A black tie event. This year's theme is *Buffalo's Love of Jazz (the 40's and 50's)*. Dress in the attire of this time, enjoy and dance to the melodies of the orchestra and smooth jazz voices. (Proceeds to benefit the Buffalo & Erie County Library and Literacy Volunteers of WNY) - Location to be announced.

Saturday, July 8, 2006 – BOOK FAIR (FREE AND OPEN TO ALL)

Time: 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM - Downtown Buffalo - Lafayette Square
Washington Street from Mohawk to Clinton / Broadway to Ellicott Street (Borders Library)
Buffalo Erie County Library - Panel Discussions and Seminars.

FEATURED ACTIVITIES

Panel Discussions – Panel Discussions with National and local authors
* Featured Discussion – *A Conversation on Literacy: Why We Must Act Now*

Seminars: Reading and Learning styles, Heritage/Genealogy, Book Clubs, the Art of Literature, the Business of writing and publishing.

Interactive Children Activities – storytelling/author readings/Book Reviews by Children, hand on projects and Teen roundtable discussion.

Specialty Literary Pavilions –national, regional and local authors will present followed by book signings.

Vendors – Individual Authors, Book Stores, Publishers, Small Presses, Retail vendors and Artists.

Historical Feature: Connect with the Underground Railroad

HOSTS: The HBF/Buffalo Committee, Harlem Book Fair & *QBR The Black Book Review*

The Harlem Book Fair Buffalo Committee is a collaboration and community initiative that includes The Buffalo & Erie County Public Library, WNET ThinkBright, Literacy Volunteers, National Black MBA Association of WNY, Buffalo Niagara Convention and Visitors Bureau, Black Capital Network and many dedicated volunteers.

The Harlem Book Fair was established in 1998 by Max Rodriguez, publisher of QBR the Black Book Review, to promote reading and African American Authors. Last year over 50,000, people attended this popular festival and for the fifth year, C-SPAN's Book TV has televised the event. Due to its success and popularity, the Book Fair has extended to other national venues such as San Diego, Boston, Baltimore, Hartford and Long Island.

Harlem Book Fair - Building Community Building Readers

Event Management: Black Capital Network – jparker@thebcn.com www.thebcn.com

SPECIALTY PAVILIONS

All About Buffalo – Tent will feature presentations by authors that have written about Buffalo, NY

Imagine the Possibilities – (fiction, science, science fiction)

Health and Wellness

Inspiration, Motivation and Spirituality

WNET Think Bright Tent and Children's Stage

Home and Garden "This is How You Do It"

Literary Café

Center Stage

Introducing for 2006 – *Conversations* – Interactive TV Talk Show format will feature interviews with authors, illustrators, book clubs and more.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 9, 2006

“Creating Wealth to Strengthen Our Communities.”

The National Black MBA Association WNY Chapter will proudly present its 2006 Leadership Development Conference. The theme of this year’s event is entitled “Creating Wealth To Strengthen Our Communities.” There will be professional panels discussing 4 ways to Create Wealth in America. The goal of the conference is to educate the attendees in the areas of Franchising/Entrepreneurship, Investments, Senior Level Corporate Management, and Real estate.

Our keynote speaker is Mark Dulaney, author and publisher of the book Wealthodology - The Science of Financial Success. Some of people that will participate in the conference as panelist are: William Castle from the Xerox Corporation will discuss becoming a successful VP and creating wealth from a corporate perspective; Simpson Turley of Owner of Tim Horton’s, will discuss franchising; Kathy Doucet-Miller will discuss Black Philanthropy and Conway Porter, CPA will discuss the importance of investing.

Conference Date: Saturday, April 29, 2006

Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: The Days Inn, 200 Oak Street, Batavia, N.Y. 14020

Registration is just \$35, which includes a continental breakfast and lunch!

Register before March 31st and receive \$10 off the regular ticket price.

Check the WNY Black MBA Association site at www.wnyblackmba.org for more information on this event.

CONTACT:

Pam McIlwain

716-983-0828



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Black MBA Association
announces new Board of Directors**

CHICAGO (March 15, 2006) – The National Black MBA Association (NBMBA) today announced the election of four new board members to serve on its 10-person board from January 2006 through December 2008. The board helps set goals and provides insight and leadership to the national organization. Board members, lead by National Chair Alvin Brown, represent a broad range of industries and bring with them diverse experience and expertise.

New to the NBMBA Board of Directors are:

- **Charles Boggness**
Boggness, a Certified Public Accountant, is a consultant with Next Age Consulting, a management strategy and technology consulting firm. He has also been certified as an Information Systems Auditor and has counseled Fortune 500 corporations in systems design and implementation. Boggness has held a variety of financial, strategic planning, and executive positions at the Walt Disney Company, *The New York Times*, Price Waterhouse Coopers, IBM and Mt. Sinai School of Medicine. He is a committed life-time member of the NBMBA, who joined the association while a student in 1990 and has actively contributed to the organization consistently during his 15 year membership. During the years Boggness served as VP of Finance and VP of Administration of the Westchester/Greater Connecticut chapter, the chapter was awarded Chapter of the Year. He went on to serve as Chapter President and has been instrumental in corporate partner relations on major accounts. He has served as a member of the NBMBA National Strategic Planning Committee since 2001.
- **Thomas Dortch, Jr.**
Dortch is Chairman Emeritus of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. and Chairman and CEO of TWD, Inc., a consulting firm with an emphasis on business development, public relations, and fundraising. In 1978, Dortch began working in the U.S. Senate providing technical assistance at conferences, meetings, and public hearings. In 1990, he became the State Director and served as Chief Administrator over five field offices and one state office. He was the first African-American to serve in this capacity for the United States Senate. Some of his other accomplishments include: establishing the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc.; co-founding the Georgia Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (GAME); and co-founding the Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance. Dortch is involved in a number of social and civic endeavors including:

the national Drug Free Communities Act Advisory Commission, the Sickle Cell foundation of Georgia, the Black/Jewish Coalition, and the National Assault on Illiteracy Board. He has appeared on C-SPAN, the “Montel Williams Show,” Talk Back Atlanta and CNN. In 2004 issue of *Ebony Magazine* and the 2004 publication of *The Atlanta Business Chronicle*, Dortch was listed as one of the 100 most influential Black leaders.

- **Audrey Hines**

Hines serves as Vice President and Secretary of family owned business, NPURSUIT, Inc. She recently retired from a 32-year corporate career and formed Dillard Hines and Associates, a human resources and diversity consulting business. Her career has centered primarily on human resources and diversity, with experience in the following industries: banking, economic research, medical diagnostic imaging and consumer package goods. Her retirement from Mars, Inc. was preceded by employment with PepsiCo, Picker International, Predicasts, Inc., the American Bankers Association and Equitable Trust Bank. Hines’ other community and professional affiliations include the YWCA of Greater Atlanta, Children’s Museum of Atlanta, the League of Women Voters, the Links, Inc., Leadership Atlanta, and the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

- **William Wells, Jr.**

Wells is the President of W. Wells & Associates, which provides management consulting services in diversity, human resources, organizational development and staffing. Throughout his career, Wells has held numerous executive level positions, including his most recent assignment as VP, Global Diversity for the St. Paul Companies. Prior to that, he held positions in the telecommunications and educational consulting industries. During that time, he received numerous awards including the Chairman’s Leadership Award – Diversity Champions, Corporate Innovation Award, Outstanding Achiever in Business & Industry and Outstanding MBA of the Year. Wells has served as a public speaker for national, regional and local programs. One of his key accomplishments is the design and development of the Minnesota Boulevard Consortium, which is comprised of a number of local organizations including Fortune 500 corporations and graduate business schools. He currently serves on a number of local boards. Additionally, he serves as an executive mentor for both the full-time MBA program at the University of Minnesota’s Carlson School of Management and the Mentium 100 Program.

About the NMBAA

Established in 1970, the National Black MBA Association is dedicated to creating partnerships that result in increased intellectual and economic wealth in the black community through education, employment and entrepreneurship. With more than 6,000 members representing 100,000 MBA graduates in 39 chapters around the country, the NMBAA has strategic partnerships with more than 400 of the country’s top business corporations, organizations, universities and colleges. The group’s 2006 annual conference and career fair, the nation’s largest employment and networking event, will be held in Atlanta, Sept. 26 – Oct. 1. For additional information, visit www.nbmbaa.org.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 14, 2006

CONTACT:

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Kathy King, 202.466.1396, kathy@westinrinehart.com

**National Black MBA Association's Magazine Ranks
Top 50 Companies for Black MBAs**

CHICAGO (April 13, 2006) – *Black MBA Magazine* announced today that Verizon Communications holds the No. 1 spot on the magazine's Top 50 Companies for Black MBAs to Work issue. Rounding out the top ten on the list are Hilton (No. 2); Abbott Laboratories (No. 3); Rohm and Haas (No. 4); Nike (No. 5); SunTrust Banks, Inc. (No. 6); Hershey's (No. 7); Marriott International (No. 8); Citigroup (No. 9); and United Technologies Corp. (No. 10). The list and related stories appear in the Spring 2006 issue of *Black MBA Magazine* (www.blackmbamagazine.net) on newsstands April 17th.

Black MBA Magazine is the official magazine for the National Black MBA Association, Inc. (NMBBAA), the country's largest minority business professional organization. Published quarterly, *Black MBA Magazine* reaches more than 35,000 subscribers.

"We are very pleased to announce the top 50 places to work for African Americans with an MBA degree," says NMBBAA President & CEO Barbara Thomas. "The NMBBAA commends these companies for their commitment to diversity, their leadership and development of their minority employees, and unparalleled opportunities they have afforded African American MBAs."

Other companies that made the *Black MBA Magazine's* top 50 list were PepsiCo, The Coca-Cola Company, General Motors and Wachovia.

Black MBA Magazine, formerly exclusively a trade magazine, will be sold at select newsstands, bookstores, and independent retail outlets beginning April 17th. Ingram Distribution will distribute *Black MBA Magazine* to Barnes & Noble and Hastings stores throughout the U.S. with the goal of increasing the circulation of the magazine.

In its 36th year, the NMBBAA has more than 6,000 members and 39 chapters across the country and represents more than 100,000 black MBA graduates. Aimed at creating partnerships resulting in increased intellectual wealth and economic vitality in the black community, the association focuses on education, employment and entrepreneurship. NMBBAA continues to form strategic partnerships with the country's leading *Fortune 500* companies, business corporations, organizations, universities and colleges.

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An expected 13,000 attendees are scheduled to attend the NMBBAA's 28th Annual Conference & Exposition in Atlanta from September 26th through October 1st. Last year's conference featured one of the country's largest career fairs with more than 460 of the *Fortune 500* in attendance. The annual conference offers participants job matching and networking opportunities, a series of professional development workshops, and career coaching.

In addition to the conference, the NMBBAA has a host of other program offerings. Most recently, the NMBBAA took its Local Empowerment Initiative (LEI) to Dallas, Tex. The LEI featured a keynote speech by bestselling author Stedman Graham, free GMAT preparation courses and a career fair. At the LEI, the NMBBAA awarded \$22,000 in grants to students in the Dallas area affected by Hurricane Katrina through their Student Empowerment Relief Fund (SERF), which has raised more than \$50,000 since its announcement in September 2005.

The NMBBAA's leader, Ms. Thomas, was recently praised by *Ebony* magazine, the number one magazine catering to African-Americans in the U.S. They laud Ms. Thomas in their May 2006 issue's annual *100+ Most Influential Black Americans* as one of the nation's top organization leaders. Ms. Thomas has also spoken at several business schools, including Harvard Business School, Stanford Graduate School of Business, and the Duke University Fuqua School of Business, in the first quarter of this year.

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For more information on the NMBBAA please visit www.nbmbaa.org, or contact Audrey Pinn at 202.466.7717, audrey@westinrinehart.com or Kathy King at 202.466.1396, kathy@westinrinehart.com.

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In addition to the conference, the NMBBAA has a host of other program offerings. Most recently, the NMBBAA took its Local Empowerment Initiative (LEI) to Dallas, Tex. The LEI featured a keynote speech by bestselling author Stedman Graham, free GMAT preparation courses and a career fair. At the LEI, the NMBBAA awarded \$22,000 in grants to students in the Dallas area affected by Hurricane Katrina through their Student Empowerment Relief Fund (SERF), which has raised more than \$50,000 since its announcement in September 2005.

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For more information on the NMBBAA please visit www.nbmbaa.org, or contact Audrey Pinn at 202.466.7717, audrey@westinrinehart.com or Kathy King at 202.466.1396, kathy@westinrinehart.com.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 16, 2006

CONTACT:

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**Monster.com ranks National Black MBA Association
a top African American professional organization**

CHICAGO (April 16, 2006) – Monster.com, part of Monster Worldwide, Inc., recognized the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA) as one of the top twenty-one professional groups for African Americans. In an article on the site, Monster.com encouraged job seekers to utilize and join professional organizations like the NBMBA.

Monster.com, the leading global careers website, featured the NBMBA, the country's largest minority business professional organization, as a top professional association for blacks alongside a number of influential organizations, including the 100 Black Men of America, the National Association of Black Journalists, and the National Society of Black Engineers. Headquartered in Maynard, Mass., Monster connects quality job seekers at all levels with leading employees across all industries.

"We are pleased that Monster.com regards the NBMBA as a top black professional organization," said NBMBA President and CEO Barbara Thomas. "We hope that the recruiters, job seekers, Corporate America, and business schools continue utilizing us as a valuable resource for job information, job matching, and job placement."

In its 36th year, the NBMBA has more than 6,000 members and 39 chapters across the country and represents more than 100,000 black MBA graduates. Aimed at creating partnerships resulting in increased intellectual wealth and economic vitality in the black community, the organization focuses on education, employment and entrepreneurship.

NBMBA continues to form strategic partnerships with the country's leading *Fortune 500* companies, business corporations, organizations, universities and colleges.

An expected 13,000+ attendees are scheduled to attend the NBMBA's 28th Annual Conference & Exposition in Atlanta from September 26th through October 1st. Last year's conference featured one of the country's largest career fairs with more than 350 *Fortune 500* in attendance. The annual conference offers participants job matching and networking opportunities, a series of professional development workshops, and career coaching.

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Monster.com Ranks NMBBAA as Top Organization – Page 2

In addition to the conference, the NMBBAA has a multitude of program offerings. Recently, the NMBBAA took its Local Empowerment Initiative (LEI) to Dallas, Tex. Keynote speaker and bestselling author Stedman Graham presented from his “You Can Make It Happen” workshop. The LEI included a career fair, free GMAT preparation courses to college students in attendance, and the awarding of \$22,000 in grants to students from the Dallas area who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina through their Student Empowerment Relief Fund (SERF). The NMBBAA has contributed more than \$90,000 to SERF since its beginning in September 2005.

The NMBBAA’s leader, Ms. Thomas, was recently praised by *Ebony* magazine, the number one magazine catering to African-Americans in the U.S. They laud Ms. Thomas in their May 2006 issue’s annual *100+ Most Influential Black Americans* as one of the nation’s top organization leaders. Ms. Thomas has also spoken at several business schools, including Harvard Business School, Stanford Graduate School of Business, and the Duke University Fuqua School of Business, in the first quarter of this year.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2006

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Top speakers to dazzle National Black MBA Association Leaders at Annual Retreat

Wachovia and Target to sponsor gathering of African American business executives

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (May 4, 2006) – Best-selling author and educator Dr. Dennis Kimbro, best-selling author and NAACP Image Award recipient Omar Tyree, and executive business coach David Samuel will be speaking to more than 130 leaders from the National Black MBA Association (NMBBAA) during their annual Chapter Leadership Retreat held at the Marriott Center City Hotel in Uptown Charlotte from May 5th through 7th. More than 30 of the organization’s 39 local chapters will be represented in Charlotte for a weekend of workshops of best practices, motivational speeches, and “how to” sessions. The leadership retreat is being sponsored by Wachovia, which is headquartered in Charlotte, and Target.

“We are very excited to gather this weekend in Charlotte to educate our organization’s leaders,” said NMBBAA President and CEO Barbara Thomas. “We are also excited to have such fantastic speakers, such as Dr. Dennis Kimbro, Omar Tyree, and David Samuel, motivate us and challenge our leaders.”

In its 36th year, the NMBBAA has more than 6,000 members and represents more than 100,000 black MBA graduates. Aimed at creating partnerships resulting in increased intellectual wealth and economic vitality in the black community, the organization focuses on education, employment and entrepreneurship. NMBBAA continues to form strategic partnerships with the country’s leading *Fortune 500* companies, business corporations, organizations, universities and colleges.

Dr. Dennis Kimbro, one of the presenting speakers, is a popular writer and speaker who focuses on leadership, excellence and achievement. The CEO of P. Kimbro Group, Inc., Kimbro will be revealing unpublished research to the NMBBAA leadership group in his Saturday afternoon plenary session. Kimbro is the author of several bestselling books including *Think and Grow Rich: A Black Choice* and *What Makes Great Great: Strategies for Extraordinary Achievement*.

NAACP Image Award recipient, author, and performance poet Omar Tyree will be speaking at the Saturday morning plenary session entitled “The Equation of Life.” Tyree’s publications include *The Diary of a Freshman* and the “Food For Thought” column in the Howard University award-winning newspaper.

David Samuel will also be a presenting speaker during the weekend’s events. The founder of Lean Forward & Go: The Advancement Center for Knowledge Professionals, Samuel has held numerous leadership positions during his 30-year career in Corporate America.

An expected 13,000 attendees are scheduled to attend the NMBBAA’s 28th Annual Conference & Exposition in Atlanta from September 26th through October 1st. Last year’s conference featured one of the country’s largest career fairs with more than 300 *Fortune 500* in attendance. The annual conference offers participants job matching and networking opportunities, a series of professional development workshops, and career coaching.

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Ebony magazine, the number one magazine catering to African-Americans in the U.S., lauds Ms. Thomas in their May 2006 issue’s annual *100+ Most Influential Black Americans* as one of the nation’s top organization leaders. In the first quarter alone, Ms. Thomas has spoken at several business schools, including Harvard Business School, Stanford Graduate School of Business, and the Duke University Fuqua School of Business.

About Wachovia

Wachovia Corporation (NYSE:WB) is one of the nation’s largest diversified financial services companies, providing 13.4 million household and business relationships with a broad range of banking, asset management, wealth management and corporate and investment banking products and services. Wachovia operates as Wachovia Bank through 3,159 offices in 16 states from Connecticut to Florida and west to Texas, and, until merger integration activity is completed, will continue to be known as Western Financial Bank in California. Two core businesses operate under the Wachovia Securities brand name: retail brokerage in 49 states and in Latin America, and corporate and investment banking in selected industries nationwide. Globally, Wachovia serves clients through more than 40 international offices. Online banking is available at wachovia.com; online brokerage products and services at wachoviasec.com, and investment products and

services at evergreeninvestments.com. Wachovia had assets of \$541.8 billion, market capitalization of \$90.2 billion and stockholders' equity of \$49.8 billion at March 31, 2006.

About Target

Minneapolis-based Target serves guests at 1,400 stores in 47 states nationwide by delivering today's best retail trends at affordable prices. Target is committed to providing guests with great design through innovative products, in-store experiences and community partnerships. Whether visiting a Target store or shopping online at Target.com, guests enjoy a fun and convenient shopping experience with access to thousands of unique and highly differentiated items. Target (NYSE:TGT) gives back more than \$2 million a week to its local communities through grants and special programs. Since opening its first store in 1962, Target has partnered with nonprofit organizations, guests and team members to help meet community needs.

About NMBBAA Charlotte

Charlotte is one of 39 chapters representing the 6,000 members of the National Black MBA Association (NMBBAA). Founded in 1970, the NMBBAA has worked tirelessly to position itself as one of the premier organizations for African American professionals in the world. On both a local and national level, the association provides networking, career advancement, educational forums/events, and mentoring opportunities to its members, who represent some of the premier corporate, non-profit, and government agencies in the country.

About the NMBBAA

Established in 1970, the National Black MBA Association is dedicated to creating partnerships that result in increased intellectual and economic wealth in the black community through education, employment and entrepreneurship. With more than 6,000 members representing 100,000 MBA graduates in 39 chapters around the country, the NMBBAA has strategic partnerships with more than 400 of the country's top business corporations, organizations, universities and colleges. The group's 2006 annual conference and career fair, the nation's largest employment and networking event, will be held in Atlanta, September 26th through October 1st.

For more information on the NMBBAA please visit www.nbmbaa.org, contact Audrey Pinn at 202.466.7717, audrey@westinrinehart.com. For more information about the Charlotte chapter or the 2006 NMBBAA Chapter Leadership Retreat visit www.nbmbaaatlanta.org.

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Local Professionals find NtentialSM along Successful Career Pathway

Three Howard University Business School graduates enhance their MBAs with online career development program created by the National Black MBA Association

Washington, D.C. (May 9, 2006) – Three recent graduates of the Howard University Business School are embarking on the next phases of their careers armed with their newly-earned MBAs and the added confidence gained from participating in a comprehensive executive coaching program created by the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA). Amaya Lambert, Nyema Pinkney and Colin C. Thompson were selected as Candidates for Success for the association's NtentialSM program, an on-line career service that combines state-of-the-art technology with executive coaching.

“Although I had always considered myself extremely self-motivated and successful, I didn't feel like I was ready for executive coaching because I wasn't an executive,” said Thompson, who worked full time as the IT project manager at Howard University while also becoming the first-ever candidate to seek a double concentration MBA in information systems and analysis and supply chain management from the university. “Ntential forced me to look at myself and really hammer out my priorities for the next 3-5 years.”

Ntential is designed to assist members of the workforce from entry-level through retirement. It combines skill assessments to help professionals chart the career path that best fits their set of skills, resources to lead them through their career progression and personalized coaching to reinforce the direction each individual takes.

“I had always envisioned having a long career,” said Lambert, who earned a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering with a minor in Business from Tulane University in 2000 and an MBA from the Howard University Business School in May 2006. “But after graduating from Tulane, I had two short stints at companies and started questioning my career. Working with the Ntential coaches and fellow Candidates for Success gave me clarity about my professional goals and how to obtain them.”

The NBMBA emphasizes coaching as a vital element of Ntential, offering a third-party perspective that outlines courses of action, offers critical analysis and keeps Ntential participants accountable for their results. The coach provides feedback, direction, motivation and inspiration.

“There are a lot of books you can read, but the true benefit of Ntential is having accountability partners. You want to follow through with your goals because someone is going to ask you about them and your progress,” Thompson said.

Both Lambert and Thompson were inspired to participate in Ntential based on the experience of Nyema Pinkney who was selected as “Student of the Year” by her Howard University Business School classmates. In the fall of 2004, Pinkney became one of the NBMBA's original Candidates for Success.

“Like most people, I entered business school believing that my education would be my key to a higher salary,” Pinkney said. “Ntential opened my eyes to see that providing middle school students with creative and sound financial management education will bring me more personal satisfaction than a large sum of money. My success is based on my own personal value system.”

“Nyema’s experience was powerful,” said Lambert. “She told us that although it was hard work, it was good work that enabled her to learn not only about her career goals, but a lot about herself and her passions.”

“So often, young professionals begin a career accomplishing many of their core professional and personal goals,” said Barbara Thomas, president and CEO of NBMBA. “Sometimes the challenge becomes, ‘what’s next?’ Ntential’s personalized online resource center was designed to reignite, re-enforce and enhance a person’s accomplishments in addition to achieving his or her end goals. We do this by adding intensive human interaction with the best career coaches available to Ntential’s highly sophisticated online resources. We like to call this a hi-tech product with hi-touch service.”

The Howard University Business School was one of the original supporters of Ntential, expanding on its long-term partnership with the National Black MBA Association. Lambert, Pinkney and Thompson are also members of the association’s Washington, D.C. chapter. All three graduates credit Ntential with providing them with the tools and support to land their dream jobs.

Next month, Thompson will join the leadership program in IBM’s Integrated Supply Chain Division. Pinkney will be entering the Operations Transformational Leadership Program at United Technologies Corporation in July. In September, Lambert will be joining Deloitte as a Senior Consultant in Strategy and Operations.

“Ntential gave me the confidence and ability to successfully make it through IBM’s competitive recruitment process – which prior, may have proved to be difficult,” Thompson said.

The NBMBA is the nation’s largest association for minority professionals. Established in 1970, the National Black MBA Association is dedicated to creating partnerships that result in increased intellectual and economic wealth in the black community through education, employment and entrepreneurship. With more than 6,000 members representing 100,000 MBA graduates in 39 chapters around the country, the NBMBA has strategic partnerships with more than 400 of the country’s top business corporations, organizations, universities and colleges. The group’s 2006 annual conference and career fair, the nation’s largest employment and networking event, will be held in Atlanta, Sept. 26 – Oct. 1.

For more information about NtentialSM, please visit www.nbmbaa.org.

To speak with Amaya Lambert, Nyema Pinkney, Barbara Thomas or Colin C. Thompson about NtentialSM, please contact Kathy King at 202.466.1396 or Kathy@westinrinehart.com.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 31, 2006

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National Black MBA Association Announces Elite Networking Program for CEOs and Execs

Chicago (May 31, 2006) – The National Black MBA Association (www.NBMBAA.org), the nation’s preeminent organization for black business professionals, announced today the launch of its new Gold Key Access, a program that provides African American executives with exclusive access to private networking events and special career advancement opportunities.

“We’re very excited to offer this unique opportunity to our CEO and executive members,” said NBMBAA President and CEO Barbara Thomas. “Our Gold Key Access program will give them unparalleled access to other CEOs and executives at intimate events and power networking sessions.”

The NBMBAA created Gold Key Access in response to the growing number of African American CEOs and executives in corporate America who were seeking access to other business elites. Executives are matched with the NBMBAA’s most selective corporate partners - who include Citigroup, IBM and Verizon. Open to executives at the director level and above who earn more than \$150,000 in direct compensation, the program is expected to attract leaders from the arenas of business, finance, and government affairs. Prospective members may sign up for Gold Key Access at www.NBMBAA.org.

In addition to Gold Key Access, other signature NBMBAA career development offerings include Ntential, an online career coaching initiative that combines coaching with a state-of-the-art online tool to assist individuals navigate the workplace from entry-level through retirement. Another offering is the Candidates for Success, an executive coaching seminar offered during the group’s annual conference to be held in Atlanta this September.

An expected 13,000 attendees are scheduled to attend the NBMBAA’s 28th Annual Conference & Exposition in Atlanta September 26th - October 1st. Last year’s conference featured one of the country’s largest career fairs with more than 300 *Fortune 500* in attendance. The annual conference offers participants job matching and networking opportunities, a series of professional development workshops as well as on-site career coaching.

Celebrating its 36th year, the NMBBAA has more than 6,000 members and represents more than 100,000 black MBA graduates. Aimed at creating partnerships resulting in increased intellectual wealth and economic vitality in the black community, the organization focuses on education, employment and entrepreneurship. NMBBAA continues to form strategic partnerships with the country's leading *Fortune 500* companies, business corporations, organizations, universities and colleges.

In addition to the conference, the NMBBAA also produces the Local Empowerment Initiative (LEI) a professional seminar that travels to different parts of the country. The most recent LEI featured best-selling author Stedman Graham in Dallas this past March. The LEI included a career fair, free GMAT preparation courses as well as the awarding of \$22,000 in grants to students from the Dallas area who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina through the organization's Student Empowerment Relief Fund (SERF). The NMBBAA has contributed more than \$90,000 to SERF since its inception in September 2005.

Ebony, the country's leading African American-themed periodical, recently named Thomas as one its 100 Most Influential Black Americans.

About the NMBBAA

Established in 1970, the National Black MBA Association is dedicated to creating partnerships that result in increased intellectual and economic wealth in the black community through education, employment and entrepreneurship. With more than 6,000 members representing 100,000 MBA graduates in 39 chapters around the country, the NMBBAA has strategic partnerships with more than 400 of the country's top business corporations, organizations, universities and colleges. The group's 2006 annual conference and career fair, the nation's largest employment and networking event, will be held in Atlanta, September 26th through October 1st.

For more information about Gold Key Access, please contact Audrey Pinn at 202.466.7717 or audrey@westinrinehart.com.

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SEPTEMBER 20, 2006

Viewpoint

By Barbara Thomas

Black Entrepreneurs Win, Corporations Lose

The NBMBA's Barbara Thomas says black Americans' business success is good news for everyone except the companies they leave behind

In some deeply empowering good news, the U.S. Census Bureau recently informed Americans that black-owned businesses are among the fastest-growing segments of the nation's economy—up 45% from 1997 to 2002—and that these businesses currently generate a healthy \$89 billion in revenue, up 25% over the same period. And while the geography of this trend shows no surprises—African-American businesses tend to be concentrated in cities such as New York, Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Chicago—it's instructive to look a little beneath the surface.

While New York City has the largest number of black-owned businesses, Cook County, Ill. is the top county nationwide for these businesses. This indicates that African Americans are starting businesses not just in Cook County's core of Chicago, but in nearby suburbs with substantial, often middle-class and affluent, black populations, such as Evanston, Flossmoor, Oak Park, and Olympia Fields.

It's thrilling to see the creativity, determination, and resourcefulness black people bring to creating wealth. Less thrilling, but still necessary, is a dash of reality. African Americans' entrepreneurial businesses led in the number of bankruptcies. And even when they're successful as entrepreneurs, African Americans too often choose to go it alone because they're shut out of other routes to the top.

SUCCESS STORIES. Indeed, if there's a shadow in this rosy entrepreneurial picture, it's the loss to Corporate America of the very talent desperately needed in the diverse global marketplace. Today, it's easier to find African-American role models among entrepreneurs than among top corporate leaders.

The late publishing giant John Johnson, BET founder turned hotel mogul Robert Johnson, Oprah—they and many others show what can be accomplished as the "go for it" message of individual potential and wealth-creation takes root. The concern must be for corporations that cannot or will not recognize and maximize the talents of their people.

To give credit where due, some corporations understand the importance of diversity and the necessity of retaining the people of color they've recruited. Verizon ([VZ](#)), Marriott ([MAR](#)), Hilton, Xerox ([XRX](#)), Wal-Mart ([WMT](#)), Coca-Cola ([KO](#)), and PepsiCo ([PEP](#)) are just a few of the companies recently recognized by Black MBA Magazine (the official magazine of the National Black MBA Association, where I am president and CEO) and others as among the top U.S. companies for their efforts in keeping and valuing minority employees.

AGAINST ALL ODDS. We are thus seeing the emergence of a positive corporate model that may yet stem the tide of talented minorities and women abandoning the corporate ranks (see BusinessWeek.com Video, 8/28/06, "[Minority](#)

[Rules](http://www.businessweek.com/mediacenter/video/newsmakers/8da8c23f59f0dea2c55e51980eba04d71d4b0736.html)<http://www.businessweek.com/mediacenter/video/newsmakers/8da8c23f59f0dea2c55e51980eba04d71d4b0736.html>). The success of independent African Americans in business demonstrates vividly that there's no lack of talent or ambition—rather, there's a lack of opportunity in the corporate realm.

At the same time, there's no denying the surge of optimism and pride we feel at seeing black Americans make it, in spite of everything—the biggest "in spite of" being a woeful public education system that manages to graduate less than half its African-American male students from high school. In the can-do spirit that drives every entrepreneur, let us consider how we may spread the success our entrepreneurs are seeking and finding.

One good answer comes from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation of Kansas City, Mo., which focuses its resources on education and entrepreneurship. Supporting research on how to better educate America's youth is the necessary and logical underpinning for supporting the foundation's co-equal mission of nurturing the entrepreneurial spirit.

PARTNER POWER. Education as the bedrock of success is of course a fundamental principle for the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA). Our Leaders of Tomorrow program links talented but underachieving high school students with mentors, scholarship programs, and other opportunities.

Just as deeply, we're devoted to supporting adult businesspeople as they progress in their careers. Development, training, financial assistance for higher education, mentoring, and networking—in all our work, we strive to maximize our members' gifts, and to connect these superbly qualified people with the corporations that need them.

And never underestimate the power of a partner. Whether you're talking about the U.S.'s biggest corporations or the one-person shops that comprise 92% of African-American entrepreneurs' businesses, mutually beneficial partnering maximizes resources and minimizes failure. It's the single most efficient way to get things moving, an invaluable shortcut to sparking creativity and finding new approaches to old situations. Partnerships uniting the nation's businesses, associations, and government entities are essential if we want to try to generate wealth and success for all Americans.

Throughout its history, the fiercely individualistic U. S. has been one big entrepreneurial incubator. African Americans haven't always had access to the incubator, but now that we're in it, we too are growing healthy and strong as business success stories. As entrepreneurs and as corporate employees, we're pursuing prosperity with the positive confidence that it's within our reach to thrive in a business community that's open to all.

Barbara Thomas is president and CEO of the [National Black MBA Association](http://www.nbmbaa.org)<http://www.nbmbaa.org>, a not-for-profit advocacy organization dedicated to increasing intellectual and economic wealth in the black community through education, employment, and entrepreneurship. Before joining the NBMBA, Thomas worked in the broadcasting industry for 25 years.



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**NATIONAL BLACK MBA ASSOCIATION TO
WELCOME 11,000 PROFESSIONALS, RECRUITERS, ENTREPRENEURS, INDUSTRY LEADERS
AND STUDENTS TO ATLANTA CONFERENCE**

ATLANTA (Sept. 20, 2006) — The National Black MBA Association, the nation's premier trade organization for black professionals, will hold its 28th Annual Conference Sept. 26 – Oct. 1 at the Georgia World Congress Center in Atlanta. This year's theme, "Winning with Intention! Winning with Innovation! Winning with Integrity!," will provide the framework for discussions on creating real wealth opportunities for black professionals and entrepreneurs; increasing participation by blacks in global markets; enhancing career development; and providing access to the executive suite. Conference sponsors include **Bank of America, The Coca-Cola Company, The Home Depot, Target Corporation** and **Wachovia**.

The conference will also feature one of the nation's largest career fair, with representatives from **372 organizations** as well as career-enhancing programs such as the NMBAA's Career Success Network Center[®]. Candidates for SuccessSM, a re-launch of the association's NtentialSM career development system, and the Leadership Institute. The CSNC is co-sponsored by **ExxonMobil** and **Wells Fargo**; **Hewlett-Packard** will provide technology for the center. Sponsors of Leadership Institute activities include **PepsiCo** and **Pitney Bowes**.

During the conference, sessions and events are set to tackle controversial issues impacting black professionals such as:

Tuesday, Sept. 26

- **Global Partnership Roundtable – The World is Flat, Now What? Global Presence in a Shrinking World.** Designed to foster a deeper understanding of how globalization is creating new ways of doing business, demanding new skill sets and reshaping the importance of being culturally competent. Invited speakers include **Zanele Mbeki**, First Lady, South Africa; **Andrew Young**, former United Nations Ambassador; **Marilyn Johnson**, Vice President, Market Development, IBM; **Bill Imada**, Chairman and CEO, IW Group; and **Oswaldo Luis Do Nascimento**, Cluster Unit Executive, IBM, Brazil. Sponsored by IBM.

Thursday, Sept. 28

- **Diversity: Diversion? Delusion? Delivered?** NMBAA and Black Enterprise combine strength to help corporate leaders unravel the diversity conundrum. Panelists will challenge and shatter paradigms and provide practical ways to align diversity to achieve strategic objectives, compete in a global market and win the war for talent in the advertising industry. Invited speakers include **Ed Gordon**, journalist; **Earl Graves Jr.**, President and CEO, Black Enterprise; the **Rev. Al Sharpton**, National Action Network; **Jason Chambers Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor, Advertising, University of Illinois; **Kent Matlock**, Matlock Advertising & PR; and **Maurice Cox**, Vice President, Corporate Development and Diversity, Pepsi-Cola Company.

-- more --

- **Global Business Trends – Future Shock: What’s Coming. Futurist Nat Irvin, Ph.D.**, founder of Future Focus 2020, says that the world grew flatter, smaller and more ready for business “while many of us were sleeping.” In this session, Dr. Irvin will outline the flatteners that are driving change and prosperity in the new global economy. Invited panelists and speakers include **Gloria Johnson-Goins**, VP, Diversity and Inclusion, The Home Depot; **Ben Jenkins**, President of the General Bank, Wachovia; **Marvin Ellison**, President, Northern Division of The Home Depot; **Bill Taggart**, COO, Corporate & Investment Banking, Wachovia; **Ike Harris**, VP of Supply Chain, Personal System Group, Notebook Computing Global Business Unit, Hewlett-Packard; and **Stanley E. Porter**, Principal, Energy Practice, Deloitte Consulting.

Friday, Sept. 29

- **Atlanta and Maynard Jackson: A Winning Equation.** Since the late 1970s, Atlanta has been know as a Mecca for Black Entrepreneurship, yet few have understood the genius strategy behind the development conceived and led by the late Maynard Jackson. Invited panelists include **Valerie Richardson-Jackson**, widow of Mayor Maynard Jackson; **Herman Russell**, Chairman & CEO, H.J. Russell & Company; **Brenda Ross-Dulan**, SVP and Regional President, Los Angeles Cross Roads Division, Wells Fargo; **Bill Clement**, Chairman & CEO, DOBBS RAM & Company; and **Sonia Booker**, Co-Founder, Intown Condos and Lofts, Inc.

Other featured guests include **Randal Pinkett, Ph.D., MBA**, fourth season winner of Donald Trump’s “The Apprentice” and official spokesman for the NBMBA Gold Key Access program. Pinkett will be the keynote speaker at this invitation-only event created to introduce top-tier black professionals (earning \$150,000-plus a year) to executive recruiters and talent scouts.

Onsite conference registration, sponsored by **Deloitte**, will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 4 p.m. at the Georgia World Congress Center. Visit www.nbmbaa.org for detailed information about sessions, events and the career fair.

The National Black MBA Association, established in 1970, has more than 6,000 members and represents more than 100,000 black MBA graduates. The organization exists to create partnerships that result in increased intellectual wealth and economic vitality in the black community.



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National Black MBA Student Conference Gives Tomorrow's Leaders Guidance, Direction

[ATLANTA, Sept. 20, 2006] Close to 150 high school students from across the United States and United Kingdom will converge in the city to participate in the Leaders of Tomorrow[®] (LOT) National Conference, Sept. 27–29, 2006.

Part of the National Black MBA's annual conference, the four-day LOT program will expose students to a variety of programs and exercises that will strengthen both their academic and leadership skill sets. The students will participate in educational workshops, some run by business executives from Georgia-Pacific, Mars Incorporated and McDonald's Corporation, aimed at preparing them for college and career. In addition, participants will attend special events and plenary sessions hosted by thought leaders such as:

- Hill Harper, actor and author of "Letters to a Young Brother: MANifest Your Destiny"
- Dennis Kimbro, Ph.D., renowned lecturer and business school professor
- Michael Holmes, Director Strategic Talent Management and Global Diversity Leadership for Pitney Bowes
- Katherine Lampley, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions for Bentley College

LOT conference attendees will also tour local colleges, attend an awards banquet and visit The King Center. And there will be many other informative sessions — including a LOT Conference Celebration sponsored by The Kellogg Company and luncheon sponsored by Bank of America — and surprise entertainment events throughout the conference.

"These students have a tremendous opportunity that allows them to attend the nation's largest recruiting and networking event at no cost, due to financial support from the National Black MBA headquarters and through our local chapters," says Leaders of Tomorrow[®] Program Manager Beverly Harris, MBA. "This year's LOT national conference itinerary is emblematic of where the program is headed — especially on the heels of our 15th anniversary — and shows the NBMBA's commitment to serving young African-American students with the most robust mentoring opportunities possible."

About Leaders of Tomorrow[®]

The NBMBA Leaders of Tomorrow[®] (LOT) program targets high school students who show promise, drive and ambition across a broad spectrum and have exhibited leadership potential, but require additional motivational factors in their lives to achieve excellence. The LOT program is designed to guide these students towards lifelong success through education and direct exposure to working professionals, entrepreneurs and business educators.

About National Black MBA

Established in 1970, the National Black MBA Association is dedicated to creating partnerships that result in increased intellectual and economic wealth in the black community through education, employment and entrepreneurship. Visit www.nbmbaa.org for more information.



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**NATIONAL BLACK MBA ASSOCIATION KICKS OFF 28TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
& EXPOSITION**

Day One Dedicated to Developing Leaders, Winning With Intention

ATLANTA (Sept. 28, 2006) – The Georgia World Congress Center was abuzz with excitement as the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA) commenced its 28th Annual Conference and Exposition Wednesday. From the young “**Leaders of Tomorrow**” arriving to take pictures at the exhibit entrance to the seasoned and accomplished professionals who spent the entire day at the PepsiCo-sponsored **Leadership Institute**, today’s programming was rooted in the dedication NBMBA members have to becoming more effective in every facet of their lives.

Conference attendees were first engaged at Tuesday’s Global Partnership Roundtable, which served as the kickoff of conference programming. Sponsored by IBM, the panel (entitled, “The World is Flat, Now What? Global Presence in a Shrinking World) included some of the foremost minds on international business protocols and exchanges, including **Andrew Young**, United Nations ambassador and former Atlanta mayor; **Bill Imada**, chairman and CEO, IW Group; **Oswaldo Luis Do Nascimento**, Cluster Unit Executive, IBM Brazil; and **Jannet Thoms**, president of the NBMBA Atlanta chapter.

Internationally-renowned leadership expert **John Maxwell**, author of “The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership” and “Developing the Leader Within You,” was the real draw of the day. His undeniable expertise — honed through having trained more than one million leaders worldwide — was a premium opportunity for NBMBA members to set new professional goals and turn a fresh eye to achieving personal and professional goals. Between laughing at his familial anecdotes and nodding in affirmation as he shared both the ups and downs of his own growth, the Leadership Institute participants responded strongly to Maxwell’s key characteristics of successful people.

“Successful people are those who have defined what success means to them by finding their purpose, and then they grow to the maximum potential of their purpose,” Maxwell summarized by noting that individuals should spend their time expanding their strengths rather than trying to improve their weaknesses. “If you work on your weaknesses, at best you’ll be average, and people don’t pay for average.”

Maxwell also defined a successful person as one who gives back by developing, equipping and bringing up others as he or she ascends. “I believe that success is sowing seeds that will benefit others. The only way to compound anything in life is to give to and invest in others,” he added.

Leadership Institute participants also had the opportunity to do intensive sessions with educators and leaders in a variety of fields across a range of topics. **Karen M. Dyer** of the Center of Creative Leadership encouraged participants to engage in leadership as a lifelong endeavor and **George C. Fraser** shared keys for networking effectively while maintaining a greater purpose and accomplishment. **Dr. Dennis Kimbro** discussed wealth strategies and entrepreneurial success via facts and fictions and **Charles McClendon, Jr.** with The Gallup Organization helped participants discover their strengths, to name a few of the exciting opportunities.

“Today is just the beginning of what will undoubtedly be a life-changing endeavor for our National Black MBA community,” said NMBBAA President and CEO Barbara Thomas. “Whether a 16-year-old LOT participant or a 56-year-old lifetime member, we are dedicated to ensuring that all of our conference attendees get fulfilling, relevant programming that represents the five channels which guide our organization: Education, Career, Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Lifestyle.”

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About The National Black MBA Association

Established in 1970, the National Black MBA Association is dedicated to creating partnerships that result in increased intellectual and economic wealth in the black community through education, employment and entrepreneurship. Visit www.nbmbaa.org for more information.



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NATIONAL BLACK MBA ASSOCIATION PARTNERS WITH GLOBAL LEAD MANAGEMENT CONSULTING TO LAUNCH FIRST COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF BLACK MBA PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS

Study To Provide In-Depth Insights Of Black MBA Professionals And Students That Will Inform And Enhance Corporate Diversity Initiatives

ATLANTA (Sept. 29, 2006) —The National Black MBA Association (NBMBAA) announced today a partnership with Global Lead Management Consulting to launch the Diversity Pipeline Talent Study—a comprehensive, longitudinal research initiative that will collect and report the insights of black MBA professionals and students regarding their career decisions and job satisfaction.

Black professionals attending the NBMBAA 28th Annual Conference in Atlanta got a glimpse at potential survey questions and had an opportunity to scale their company's performance on factors such as: developing their talent management strategy, leadership competency development, advocacy, company transparency, inclusive culture and values, professional skills enhancement and community leadership.

"It's no secret that corporations, government agencies and non-profit organizations are all seeking to enhance their efforts to attract, recruit, develop and retain minority talent," says Barbara Thomas, NBMBAA president & CEO. "But, until now, no entity has been able to provide concrete data on the most relevant thoughts, opinions and perceptions of the nation's top black business professionals."

Over the course of the next year, NBMBAA and Global Lead Management will conduct focus groups and interviews among targeted and representative black MBAs to gain in-depth information that will inform a quantitative survey tool. The quantitative survey tool will measure the perceptions of a representative sample of black MBAs and will compare and contrast those findings with those of their white, Hispanic, and Asian counterparts.

"This is the first and only study to determine and gauge the factors that matter most to premiere black talent and help companies create an environment that attracts and cultivates that talent," says Vincent Brown, principal partner of Global Lead Management Consulting. "NBMBAA has the nation's wealthiest resource of African American business professionals and we are pleased to partner with them to ask the questions every company in corporate America wants to ask."

The Diversity Pipeline Talent Study will also document profiles of the 100,000 black MBAs represented in the study, as well as provide resources and tools for global businesses to effectively and efficiently attract, retain and advance talent from the National Black MBA Association's pipeline.

NBMBAA and Global Lead Management Consulting will publish the report and announce findings in one year at the 29th Annual Conference in Orlando, Fla.

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**NATIONAL BLACK MBA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE BRINGS MORE
WORLD-CLASS CONTENT, OPPORTUNITY TO ATTENDEES**

Day Two Celebrates Winning, Leading and Achieving With Innovation

ATLANTA (Sept. 29, 2006) – Close to 15,000 professionals streamed in to the Georgia World Congress Center for day two of the National Black MBA Association's (NBMBA) 28TH Annual Conference & Exposition.

The day began with an innovative discussion about diversity in the workplace during the "Diversity: Diversion? Delusion? Delivered?" plenary. The **Rev. Al Sharpton**, President of The National Action Network; **Earl Graves, Jr.**, CEO And President, Black Enterprise and **Ed Gordon**, journalist, and host of NPR's "News & Notes with Ed Gordon" and "Our World with Black Enterprise," were among the panel participants who spoke about the need for black MBAs to use innovative tactics to decidedly and determinedly create more diverse, inclusive workplaces.

This riveting session was followed by a luncheon featuring futurist **Nat Irvin**. He gave an animated and engaging presentation about "thrivals," which he defines as the post-struggle generation of competitive, critical, savvy and educated Africans and African Americans who possess an awareness and appreciation for multiculturalism, globalization and change.

Drawing on themes that echoed the knowledge shared during the global roundtable NBMBA hosted earlier in the week, Irvin gave a plethora of statistics that detailed how globalization will continue to change the business landscape, including:

- By 2015, emerging economies will make up one-third of the entire world's marketshare, up from one-fifth today
- There is a 30 percent probability that a company in the top percentile of its industry will not be in existence 5 years from now
- 100 million Chinese homes will reach European levels by 2020
- The changes that have taken place thus far in the 21st Century represent 20,000 years of change at today's current rate

He also gave population estimates for 59 international mega-cities (only two of which were based in the United States) to drive home his point. "The world is becoming browner, blacker, less white and more gray," he said. "Our heritage is no longer our destiny, and it's important that we think strategically not tactically."

He ended his presentation by giving the audience a sneak peek of who will be President of the United States in 2050: a black woman. “And her name is Sheeniqua! Meet President Sheeniqua!” he triumphantly proclaimed as the audience clapped and chuckled.

The NBMBA **Annual Career Fair** also opened, with nearly 400 exhibitors from across the world. Before they hit the exhibitor floor, attendees could brush up on their interviewing skills, update and refresh their resumes, and get one-on-one professional coaching in the **Career Success NetworkSM Center**.

The night before, attendees were treated to an official “ATL-style” reception at the **Welcome Reception** held at the **Georgia Aquarium**. Sponsored by Atlanta-headquartered Coca-Cola, the reception allowed conference attendees to network and relax; **Jagged Edge** performed and Atlanta city council president **Lisa Borders** addressed the crowd.

The “ATL” style and sensibility was also on display during the day’s programming, as **Big Boi** from the rap group Outkast participated in the Men’s Forum. Rap pioneer **MC Lyte** led the Women’s Forum.

“Over several decades, especially under the leadership of the late, great Maynard Jackson, Atlanta reinvented itself,” says NBMBA CEO and President **Barbara Thomas**. “That same sense of innovation is what is driving our conference, as we work to keep ourselves ahead of the curve. Like the city of Atlanta, we black MBAs are open for business—day or night, on the clock or after hours, black MBAs are always ready to think and talk, network and make a deal.”

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About The National Black MBA Association

Established in 1970, the National Black MBA Association is dedicated to creating partnerships that result in increased intellectual and economic wealth in the black community through education, employment and entrepreneurship. Visit www.nbmbaa.org for more information.



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BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY AND THE NATIONAL BLACK MBA ASSOCIATION TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS TO AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS

CHICAGO [September 30, 2006] In its continued and ongoing efforts to model its student body after a global community that combines the insights and talents of a diverse population, the International Business School (IBS) at Brandeis University has partnered with the National Black MBA Association (NBMBAA) to award scholarships to African-American students.

The new Graduate Merit Scholarship will be given to approximately two outstanding African-American students annually so they may pursue full-time study in the IBS MBA program. Applicants must be U.S. citizens or United States permanent residents, and also must be NBMBAA members in good standing. Recipients of this prestigious award will be chosen based on the depth, breadth and quality of their work experience, educational record, demonstrated leadership skill, service to the NBMBAA organization and extracurricular activities.

The IBS is a professional school dedicated to research in global finance, management and economic policy. Its curriculum is designed to teach cutting-edge theory and immerse students in international experiences that connect them to best practices in business and policy.

“The National Black MBA Association thinks outside the board room by reaching back to students in the classroom,” says NBMBAA President and CEO Barbara L. Thomas. “Education is one of our five channels of engagement, and we work to provide connections to people and programs — if you connect with us, we’ll connect with you.”

To learn more about the Graduate Merit Scholarship, visit
http://www.brandeis.edu/global/news_nbmba_scholarship.php.

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About The Brandeis International Business School

The Brandeis International Business School is a pioneering professional school dedicated to teaching and research in global finance, management and economic policy. We respond to the growing need for international vision and expertise by preparing exceptional individuals from around the world to become principled leaders of global companies and public institutions.



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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National Black MBA Assn. CEO courts support

TOP BUSINESS GROUP'S PRESIDENT BRINGS MESSAGE OF INCLUSION TO PORTLAND'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY

PORTLAND, OR. (Nov. 5, 2006) – Doing business globally means getting used to diversity – and that's a great reason to support the National Black MBA Association (NMBBAA), one of the world's top organizations for minority business professionals, according to President and CEO Barbara L. Thomas.

Thomas visits Portland Wednesday, Nov. 8, to meet with members and corporate supporters of the group's Seattle/Portland Chapter at a pre-game reception followed by the Trail Blazers-Lakers game at the Rose Garden in Portland.

“Our Portland presence is a vital one, because we see tremendous potential for growth and prosperity in the Pacific Northwest,” said Thomas from the organization's Chicago headquarters. “It's critically relevant that we expand our presence here, both by increasing membership in our Chapter and by building our bridges throughout the corporate and entrepreneurial communities.”

“We are so pleased to welcome Barbara Thomas,” said Portland attorney Joshua Williams, president of the Seattle/Portland Chapter. “We look forward to hearing her thoughts on building our profile and on the issues of inclusion and diversity, here in Portland and throughout the global business world.”

Williams said the event is intended to celebrate existing friends and make new ones for the local National Black MBA Association Chapter. It's also a kickoff for the NMBBAA's major new 2007 initiative: a membership drive that will increase its numbers to 50,000 next year.

Thomas, who was named this spring to Ebony magazine's list of 100 Most Influential Black Americans, has received numerous awards for her work on behalf of African Americans as students and in business. She heads an organization numbering more than

6,000 members and representing some 100,000 black MBA graduates in America. An additional 10,000 African American MBAs graduate annually from U.S. schools.

Founded by students at the University of Chicago in 1970, the Chicago-based National Black MBA Association exists to create opportunities and partnerships resulting in increased intellectual wealth and economic vitality in the black community. Focusing on education, employment and entrepreneurship, the National Black MBA Association, now in its 36th year, continues to form strategic partnerships with leading Fortune 500 companies, business corporations, organizations, colleges and universities.

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To learn more about the National Black MBA Association, please visit its website at www.nbmbaa.org, or contact the organization at 312-236-26222. To schedule an interview with Barbara Thomas, please contact Jerry Thomas at Jerry Thomas Public Relations, 773-677-6378.



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NATIONAL BLACK MBA ASSOCIATION® CLOSES ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Awards, Events Honor Legends, Leaders and Winning With Integrity

ATLANTA (TK) — The National Black MBA Association (NBMBA[®]) closed its annual conference by honoring the people and places that have helped shape the black business environment and contributed to its legacy via the organization's five channels: career, education, entrepreneurship, leadership and lifestyle.

Many of the closing events paid tribute to the conference's host city and its noted track record of business success and innovation. "**Atlanta and Maynard Jackson: A Winning Equation**," an educational plenary sponsored by Wells Fargo that outlined the historical legacy, challenges, current state and opportunity of black entrepreneurship, featured panelists Herman J. Russell, Chairman and CEO of H.J. Russell & Co., the fourth largest construction company in the United States; Brenda Ross-Dulan, SVP of Wells Fargo; Sonia Booker, co-founder of Intown Condos & Lofts Inc., the largest condominium conversion company in the Southeast; and Thomas W. Dortch, Jr., NBMBA Board Member and Chairman Emeritus of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. Jackson's widow, Valerie Richardson-Jackson moderated the panel, noting the moving video and verbal tributes to her late husband's accomplishments and speaking to his determination and conviction to forward the business environment for African Americans.

The "**Honoring our Past, Charting Our Future**" keynote luncheon that followed the plenary continued to honor pioneers and visionaries who have contributed to the vision, mission and direction of the NBMBA organization. Sponsored by Bank of American Corp., the luncheon featured keynote speaker Dr. Therman Evans, CEO of Whole Life Associates and pastor of Morning Star Christian Community Center, who spoke to the idea that leading with integrity is born of being holistically grounded, saying that in order to maximize one's human potential, you have to be committed to caring for and maintaining your body, mind and spirit. NBMBA Board of Directors Chairman Alvin Brown gave awards to Dr. Oswald Bronson, president of Edward Waters College and Bishop McKinley Young to for their contributions and Legacy Awards were presented to:

- Willie E. Gary, Esq., Chairman of the Black Family Channel
- Joe Leonard, Jr., Executive Direction of the Black Leadership Forum
- Marc Morial, President/CEO of the National Urban League
- Theodore M. Shaw, President of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund

- Rev. Dr. E. Faye Williams, Esq., National Chair of the National Congress of Black Women

Additionally, Herman Russell was named the Entrepreneur of the Year. The **National Scholarship Program**, sponsored by Cardinal Health recognized more than 50 talented, dedicated students in an array of programs and disciplines. Entrepreneur, author and television host **B. Smith** served as the gracious mistress of ceremonies for the **Awards Ceremony**, the official closing of conference events. The “Sweet Auburn Affair” gala and dinner — styled as a throwback to the historic Atlanta district of the early 20th Century where black entrepreneurship and culture thrived — featured performances from R&B artists **112** and **Donell Jones**. “Sweet Auburn represents the history of our people striving to win, and is emblematic of the strong ties and connections we’ve had to one another that help us win,” NBMBA President and CEO **Barbara L. Thomas** said at the event’s opening.

The mood, spirit and sense of achievement and accomplishment that permeated the evening were best captured by NBMBA member Catherine LeBlanc’s remarks as she accepted her President’s Award, which brought many of the attendees to tears as they recognized her with a standing ovation.

“Coming into this organization, this was the place where we could be affirmed, where we weren’t affirmative action babies. It was an opportunity to take off the corporate mask and hold each other,” she said, recalling the infancy of the organization when so many of the members were the first and/or people of color in their companies.

“Friends from this organization threw my baby shower, they came to my home state when I was diagnosed with cancer, they took care of me and prayed for me — that is the nature, quality and character of the people of this organization,” she added.

There was also a lot of excitement around the 2007 initiatives Thomas cited during the gala. Among them:

- A junior high extension of the NBMBA Leaders of Tomorrow[®] program
- Continued donations to students affected by Hurricane Katrina, and
- A 50,000 total NBMBA membership goal by the end of next year.

“I look at the universe and see endless possibilities: I look at you and see the universe,” Thomas said, addressing the gala. “In you lies the future and all of the possibilities for our organization, and I charge you to take the call to win seriously, to be the strongest link to win with intention, win with innovation and win with integrity.”

Individuals and organizations received awards and/or scholarships in the following categories:

CASE STUDY COMPETITION

First Place Team: University of Stellenbosch (\$15,000)

- Pambili Booii
- Kagisho Mahura
- Fortune Ngwenya

Second Place Team: Hampton University (\$12,000)

- Leon Chisolm
- Nadja Frazier
- Petra Klimplova

Third Place Team: University of Georgia (\$

- Deirdra Glover
- Hakeem Rufai
- Tiffane Thompson

COCA-COLA COMPANY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Jaison Battle (Harvard University)
- LaTonya Clark (Howard University)
- Janelle James (Harvard University)
- Tahirah King (Belmont University)
- Erika Lewis (University of Michigan)
- Jacqueline McMiller (Loyola University)
- Floyd Newsum (Indiana University)
- Richard Owens (Howard University)
- Ade Patton (Harvard University)
- James Rollins (University of South Carolina)
- Tony Russell (Clark Atlanta University)
- Robert Stewart (Washington University)
- Ariel Terry (Clark Atlanta University)
- Jeannine Walker (University of Southern California)
- Lizette Williams (Northwestern University)
- Lingxiang Zhang: University of Minnesota

CORPORATE NAMED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Cardinal Health Scholar: Michael Salters (University of Minnesota)
- Cardinal Health Scholar: Diana Stewart (Rice University)
- Citibank Scholar: Zhalisa Clarke (Harvard Business School)
- Ford Motor Company Scholar: Logan Gaskill (Stanford University)
- Marriot Corporation Scholar: Rosebud Buruku (Wharton School of Business)
- Mercedes-Benz USA Inc. Scholar: Scott Thomas (University of Michigan)
- PNC Financial Services Group Scholar: Chris Thomas (Pennsylvania State University)
- Target Scholar: Gbemisola Ogunrinde (University of Pennsylvania)
- Verizon Scholar: Jason Cummings (Clark Atlanta University)

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF THE YEAR

Clark Atlanta University

H. NAYLOR FITZHUGH DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Brian P. Brown (Georgia State University)
- Toyah L. Miller (Texas A&M University)

HELPING HANDS AWARD

Clorox

INDUSTRY AWARDS

This year's program recognized the financial services industry.

- Ariel Capital Management
- Bank of America
- Citigroup
- Wachovia
- Wells Fargo

LEADERS OF TOMORROW (LOT) SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- Nneji Akunne (Columbus chapter)
- Azia Alexandria (Kansas City chapter)
- Cheyenne Baumgardner (Columbus chapter)
- LaToya Boyce (New Jersey chapter)
- R'Taija Jackson (Houston chapter)
- Reginald Jackson (Houston chapter)
- Shannon McMillan (New Jersey chapter)
- Marisa Moffett (Detroit chapter)
- Katerra Shackelford (Kansas City chapter)
- Erica Woodson (Cincinnati chapter)

LEADERS OF TOMORROW/AXA FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

- Chinonye Akunne (Columbus chapter, Wittenberg University)
- Erica King (St. Louis Chapter, Saint Xavier University)
- Nadiath Saibou (Washington D.C. chapter, Hampton University)
- Jimmie Strong (Memphis chapter, Morehouse College)
- Aylse Taylo (Dallas-Ft. Worth chapter, Florida A & M University)

LLOYD TROTTER SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Sponsored by GE's African American Forum and the GE Foundation, this program recognizes individuals with an ongoing commitment to volunteerism and mentoring.

- Kenrick Chatman (University of Michigan)
- Akosua Kyereme-Tuah (MIT Sloan)
- Todd LeBlanc (University of Michigan)

NBMBAA GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Veronica Cox (Duke University)
- Bettina Gardner (Garvin School of International Management)
- Kevin Francis (Northwestern University)
- Nevada Jack (Arizona State University)
- Amber Knox (American University)
- Derek Petgrave (Columbia University)
- Wyatt Schrock (University of Miami)
- Shanelle Swinton (Howard University; sponsored by Verizon)
- Terence Thomas (University of Wisconsin)
- Corey Williams (Clark Atlanta University; sponsored by PNC Financial Services)

NBMBAA NAMED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Berthan King Scholar: Dequiana Brooks (University of Chicago)
- Beverly Hawkins Scholar: Carla Franklin (Columbia University)
- Gregory Boyd Scholar: Nicole Thomas (University of Michigan)

NBMBAA UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

- Cleveland Northeast Ohio chapter: William Allen Davis III (Edinboro University of Pennsylvania)
- Columbus chapter: Ashley-Lauren McLean (Ohio State University)
- Memphis chapter: Tamiko Carnes (Mississippi Valley State University)
- South Florida chapter: Dean Johnson (university of Pennsylvania)
- Westchester/Greater Connecticut chapter: Tracy Toussaint (Monroe College)

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

- Catherine LeBlanc

SILVER TORCH AWARD

- Pitney Bowes

WILLIAM QUALLS AWARD

- Ford Motor Company

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