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## NBMBAA Chairman Attends 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual African American Leadership Summit Convened in Washington, DC

Washington – Alvin Brown, Chairman of the National Black MBA Association recently attended the Second Annual African American Leadership Summit in Washington, DC, April 27-28, 2004. The two-day conference provided a forum for more than 500 African American participants from across the country to continue the dialogue on a range of policy issues with senior members of the United States Congress and the Bush Administration. “This is the second year the National Black MBA Association has been a co-sponsor of this forum. Our organization is focused on providing African Americans the opportunity to pursue a higher-education and achieve economic wealth. These issues are the cornerstone of this conference and we are excited to have been apart of this dialogue. We applaud the efforts of Senator Hutchison and Santorum in developing a comprehensive conference and trying to address the issues that are impacting our community”, stated Mr. Brown.



Alvin Brown and Senator Elizabeth Dole

“We want to continue to build bridges between African American leaders and federal officials. This important event fosters an exchange of ideas that will help Congress and the Administration address the most pressing issues affecting all of our families and communities,” said Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, co-chair of the Summit.



Senator Santorum, Councilwoman Glorious Johnson from Jacksonville, Florida and Alvin Brown

“The Summit continues to allow us to have a meaningful dialogue about creating well-paying jobs, improving education and health care, encouraging faith-based initiatives, and strengthening state and community leadership,” said Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum, Summit co-chair.

U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige, whom served as the Honorary Co-Chair welcomed the delegates to the reception. Senate Majority Leadership Bill Frist of Tennessee opened the plenary session and updated attendees of the Congressional agenda, while Vice President Richard Cheney offered house perspective during his key address.

Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander, Maryland Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele, and Howard University President Partrick Swygert discussed education; and Franklin Raines, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Fannie Mae, led the economic development panel.

Public Forum Institute, GlaxoSmithKline, FannieMae, Ernst & Young, Ebay, Coca-Cola and the Burlington Northern Railway, also served as co-sponsors of this event.

"This summit was a unique opportunity to have a productive dialogue about the most pressing issues facing African Americans across the country," Sen. Hutchison said. "As we move forward, I am confident leaders in Washington will be better prepared to adopt policies that benefit all Americans."

The conference participants were nominated to attend by their members of Congress.