

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 11, 2004

Contact: *Anastacia K. Stathakis*
(202) 466-7324
anastacia@westinrinehart.com

Nation's Largest Black Professional Organization Names New President and CEO

BARBARA L. THOMAS TO LEAD THE NATIONAL BLACK MBA ASSOCIATION

CHICAGO, May 2004 (PRNewswire) – The National Black MBA Association (NBMBAA), the nation's largest black professional organization, announced today that Barbara L. Thomas has been named its President and CEO. She takes over permanently after serving the same post on an interim level since last September.

Ms. Thomas' appointment comes at a critical time, when economic and education issues are at the forefront of the nation's agenda. The organization, which consists of more than 6,000 members and represents nearly 100,000 black MBAs nationwide, has held a leadership position on education and the economy for more than 30 years. NBMBAA's mission to create economic and intellectual wealth for blacks will now be driven by Ms. Thomas, who has made these issues her main priority.

Ms. Thomas' appointment came with full support from NBMBAA's Board of Directors and the 39 Chapter Presidents.

"The announcement of Barbara Thomas as President and CEO of the National Black MBA Association comes at a time of great upward momentum for the organization," stated Alvin Brown, Chairman, NBMBAA. "In deciding to appoint Barbara, the Board evaluated her strong leadership, years of dedication to the organization, and solid work experience, including 25 years in broadcasting. We believe Barbara's credentials make her the strongest candidate to take on this very important role within the organization."

Three key goals for the association will be focused on under Ms. Thomas' leadership:

- Position NBMBAA as the premier black professional organization.
- Ensure NBMBAA retains its viability and relevance in the coming years.
- Launch the NBMBAA Foundation, an arm whose funds will provide scholarships.

"I am honored by the Board's confidence in me and plan to continue to drive the association's national leadership status," stated Barbara L. Thomas, newly appointed President & CEO, NBMBAA. "I have a great passion for the NBMBAA and will now focus that passion on helping to raise our visibility, grow membership and strengthen our commitment and services to our members and corporate partners."

This full time position is anchored at NBMBAA's national headquarters in Chicago.

About the NBMBAA – Established in 1970, the National Black MBA Association, Inc. (NBMBAA) is a non-profit organization of minority MBAs, business professionals, entrepreneurs and MBA students. The National Black MBA Association is headquartered in Chicago and encompasses 39 chapters stateside and a presence in the United Kingdom, representing more than 95,000 MBA graduates worldwide. The organization operates around three cornerstones – education, employment, and leadership. Its local chapters are at the forefront in meeting the needs of their local community and making a difference. In partnership with over 400 of the country's top business organizations, NBMBAA has made inroads into a wide range of industries as well as the public and private sector.