



Changing the Course of Your Future

For Immediate Release
September 11, 2004

Contact: Alonza Robertson
202.390.8521
Alonza@westinrinehart.com

More than 13,000 black professionals focus on economic empowerment at Houston confab

WASHINGTON (September 11, 2004) - More than 13,000 black business professionals will gather in Houston Sept. 14th -19th for the 26th annual conference, career fair and exposition of the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA) Inc., the nation's premier non-profit organization focused solely on economic empowerment for African Americans.

This year the association - which represents more than 100,000 black MBA graduates in the United States - will unveil several new initiatives including a new non-profit foundation, an executive career success network, a corporate management leadership institute as well as award some \$500,000 in scholarships to top undergraduate and graduate business students.

This year's conference theme is: "Re-Imagine: Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship; Creating Possibilities for the Future;" the honorary chairs are Texas Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchinson and Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee.

An opening convention press conference will be held 11 a.m., Tuesday, Sept. 14, at the George R. Brown Convention Center, Room 212.

Among the scheduled speakers and guests at the confab are:

- Vernon Jordan, attorney, businessman and advisor to President Bill Clinton
- **Tavis** Smiley, renown news and political commentator
- Les Brown, businessman, television talk show host and motivational speaker
- Star Jones, ABC television personality
- Stedman Graham, entrepreneur and businessman
- Dr. Dennis **Kimbro**, best-selling author and lecturer
- **Kwame** Jackson, first runner-up on NBC's *The Apprentice* and Harvard MBA

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Some 300 of the Fortune 500 companies are also expected to join the convention as exhibitors, recruiters at the career fair – where some 800 new job positions were filled last year during the annual conference held in Philadelphia - and as judges during the National Student Case Competition where MBA students showcase business plans and case studies to leading corporate executives.

Major sponsors of the NMBBAA convention include: American Airlines, Delta Airlines, Continental Airlines, Delphi Corp., Hewitt Associates, Mercedes-Benz USA, LLC, Ford Motor Co., General Motors, Daimler Chrysler Corp., Home Depot, PepsiCo, The Coca-Cola Company, Microsoft Corporation, Dell Inc., Intel Corporation, Hewlett Packard Development Company, Mars Inc. and the Greater Houston Convention and Visitors Bureau.

“No matter whether you are an NMBBAA member, corporate partner, academic official, student or visiting friend, we remain committed to offering you a value-added experience this year in Houston,” said Alvin Brown, national chairman of the organization. “We are proud to champion the collaborative talent and abilities of our membership and those seeking to benefit from economic and intellectual wealth.”

Please visit the organization’s website, www.nmbbaa.org for more information.