



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Alonza Robertson

202.390.8521 or

Alonza@westinrinehart.com

Former President Bill Clinton to attend

**NY Chapter of National Black MBAs host gala;
public service and business advisory volunteerism to be honored.**

NEW YORK – (November 30, 2004) – More than 300 guests are expected to join the Metro New York Chapter of the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA) Thursday, Dec. 2 for an evening of fine dining, networking and entertainment at the group's 15th Annual Black Tie Gala and Scholarship Awards Dinner, at the Westin New York at Time Square.

“Recognizing the Stars Among Us” is the program’s appropriate theme as former President William Jefferson Clinton is the program’s special guest; the gala will also feature performances by Tony Award winning actress and singer Melba Moore.

The annual gala recognizes outstanding community service, volunteerism, corporate leadership, entrepreneurship and scholarship in the New York African American community. Some \$20,000 in undergraduate and graduate school scholarships will also be awarded.

The program's other honorees include Goldman Sachs, Corporate Partner of the Year; Christopher Williams of Williams Capital, Entrepreneur of the Year; CNN reporter Suzanne Malveaux, Communicator of the Year; Studio Museum of Harlem, Cultural Achievement Award; and television and film actor Taye Diggs, President's Image Award.

Clinton will accept the Community Service Award on behalf of The William Jefferson Clinton Foundation which partnered with the Metro New York chapter, Booz Allen Hamilton and the New York University Stern School of Business on the novel Harlem Small Business Initiative.

The program offered 110 business professionals who provided technical, marketing and managerial assistance to 10 small Harlem businesses during a 22-month period. The group delivered 44,000 man-hours of pro bono technical assistance valued at more than \$8 million.

The program has been an immeasurable success and is being expanded to Brooklyn and the Bronx as part of Phase II that began in September, said Frances W. Ferguson, president of the NBMBA's Metro New York Chapter. “We are committed to developing strong business in our local communities and fostering relationships between our members and our local businesses,” she said.

The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. and conclude with a reception and silent auction at 10:30 p.m. The hotel is located at 240 W. 43rd St. in New York City. Limited individual and group tickets are still available via e-mail at www.nyblackmba.org.

Some 18 corporate partners will be represented at the event. Major corporate sponsors of the event include: Moody's Investor Service, Pfizer, Bear Sterns, Prudential, HSBC Bank, Barclay's, American Express, Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, Reuters and Pernod-Ricard.

More than 500 black business professionals, entrepreneurs and students comprise the Metro New York NBMBA's membership. The group has been consistently recognized as an outstanding chapter for its progressive strategic direction and leadership by the National Black MBA Association, which is the country's largest black professional organization representing some 95,000 African American MBA degree holders. For more information, please visit www.nyblackmba.org or www.nbmba.org.

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Please direct all media inquiries to Alonza Robertson, 202.390.8521, Alonza@westinrinehart.com.