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## **National Black MBA Association prepares to host one of nation's largest career fairs**

*Country's largest organization for minority business professionals will also display new high-tech career service*

**CHICAGO (September 22, 2005)** – College graduates and professionals aspiring to move up the career ladder will have an opportunity to meet with top corporate recruiters next month at the National Black MBA Association's (NMBBAA) annual Career Fair and Expo. It will be held in conjunction with the association's annual conference taking place October 11<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> at the San Diego Convention Center.

Widely regarded as one of the largest career fairs in the nation, it features representatives from more than 350 corporations and top business schools. Many of the corporations actively recruit during the career fair, with some candidates offered jobs on the spot. In preparation for meeting these recruiters, attendees can visit the Career Success Network<sup>SM</sup> Center. There, they can have their resumes critiqued and updated and receive candid feedback on effective interviewing skills from HR professionals.

“Whether you're a recent graduate who's entering the job market or a mid-career professional seeking new challenges, our career fair and expo will offer you a tremendous networking opportunity,” said NMBBAA president and CEO Barbara Thomas. “It will also provide you with the preparatory information you will need to make the optimal first impression with these corporate recruiters.”

Major exhibitors at this year's Career Fair include Abercrombie & Fitch, American Airlines, Citigroup, The Coca-Cola Company, Coors, DaimlerChrysler, Dell, Ford Motor Company, GM, Hewitt Associates, Hewlett-Packard, The Home Depot, IBM, Intel, Marriott, Mars, Microsoft, PepsiCo, Pitney Bowes, Sprint Nextel, Target, Verizon, Wachovia and Walt Disney.

Career fair attendees will also have an opportunity to test drive the NMBBAA's new state-of-the-art career enhancement service Ntential<sup>SM</sup>. Aimed at encouraging professionals to reach their “infinite potential” Ntential<sup>SM</sup> combines the latest on-line technology with personal executive coaching.

Access to the Career Fair and Career Success Network<sup>SM</sup> Center are included in the registration fees for conference attendees. But non-registrants may also take advantage of all the services provided during the career fair for a fee of \$40 for NMBBAA members, \$100 for non-members and \$50 for student non-members.

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Those wishing to get a jump-start on the career services don't have to wait for the conference to begin. Via the Conference Job Match, conference attendees can post their resumes in the NMBBAA's Employment Network Conference Resume Database. They can also get leads on corporate positions by conducting an online search of job opportunities being offered by corporations attending the conference.

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual conference, themed "Leading with Passion, Purpose & Power" was originally slated to be held in New Orleans. It was relocated to San Diego in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In an effort to assist students who have been displaced by the storm, the NMBBAA has launched a Student Empowerment Relief Fund with a goal of raising \$1 million.

"San Diego provides an excellent venue for our event this year and we look forward to hosting our conference in New Orleans in the near future," Thomas said.

Celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> 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 represents 100,000 MBA graduates. The NMBBAA has 39 local chapters across the United States.

For more information on the NMBBAA or the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and Expo, please visit [www.nbmbaa.org](http://www.nbmbaa.org), or contact Kathy King at 202.466.1396 or [Kathy@westinrinehart.com](mailto:Kathy@westinrinehart.com).

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