

National Black MBAs Celebrate 35th Anniversary

During conference, relocated due to Katrina, association's founders reflect on objectives that exceeded expectations.



Leaders from past and present gather as National Black MBA Association founding member Alexander Gabbin addresses three generations of membership. Seated, President and CEO Barbara Thomas and National Chair Alvin Brown listen.

SAN DIEGO (October 14, 2005) – The country's largest organization for minority business professionals saluted the organization's founders Friday, October 14th, as the National Black MBA Association (NBMBA) celebrated its 35th anniversary during its annual conference in San Diego. Also honored was the institution where the organization was founded – the Graduate School of Business at the University of Chicago. The school was awarded the NBMBA's Outstanding Educational Institution of the Year.

"Thirty-five years ago we came together with a common purpose and mindset," said NBMBA founder Anthony Jackson. "We were committed to advancing black admissions at the nation's business schools."

Founder Alexander Gabbin echoed Jackson's sentiments, holding transcripts from the group's first meeting. "We realized that for us to move forward, we would have to organize and make change happen."

More than 11,000 people are attending the NBMBA's 27th Annual Conference and Exposition this week at the San Diego Convention Center. One of the major attractions is the two day Career Fair where attendees can network with recruiters from more than 350 of the Fortune 500 companies.

The conference was originally scheduled to be held in New Orleans but was relocated to San Diego in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In an effort to assist MBA students displaced by the disaster, the organization has launched a Student Empowerment Relief Fund with a goal of raising \$1 million.

"The pain and suffering being experienced by the victims of Hurricane Katrina is more than news cameras can ever show," said NBMBA chairman Alvin Brown during a luncheon Friday. Brown visited the devastated region five weeks ago with President Bush and Bishop T.D. Jakes.

The spiritual leader will be receiving the organization's prestigious Chairman's Award for service on the evening of October 15th, when a black-tie gala hosted by actress Lynn Whitfield will bring the conference to an end.

Headquartered in Chicago, 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.

For more information on the NBMBA or the 27th Annual Conference and Expo, please visit www.nbmbaa.org

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