

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 14, 2006

**CONTACT:**

Audrey Pinn, 202.466.7717, [audrey@westinrinehart.com](mailto:audrey@westinrinehart.com)

Kathy King, 202.466.1396, [kathy@westinrinehart.com](mailto:kathy@westinrinehart.com)

**National Black MBA Association's Magazine Ranks  
Top 50 Companies for Black MBAs**

**CHICAGO (April 13, 2006)** – *Black MBA Magazine* announced today that Verizon Communications holds the No. 1 spot on the magazine's Top 50 Companies for Black MBAs to Work issue. Rounding out the top ten on the list are Hilton (No. 2); Abbott Laboratories (No. 3); Rohm and Haas (No. 4); Nike (No. 5); SunTrust Banks, Inc. (No. 6); Hershey's (No. 7); Marriott International (No. 8); Citigroup (No. 9); and United Technologies Corp. (No. 10). The list and related stories appear in the Spring 2006 issue of *Black MBA Magazine* ([www.blackmbamagazine.net](http://www.blackmbamagazine.net)) on newsstands April 17<sup>th</sup>.

*Black MBA Magazine* is the official magazine for the National Black MBA Association, Inc. (NBMBA), the country's largest minority business professional organization. Published quarterly, *Black MBA Magazine* reaches more than 35,000 subscribers.

"We are very pleased to announce the top 50 places to work for African Americans with an MBA degree," says NBMBA President & CEO Barbara Thomas. "The NBMBA commends these companies for their commitment to diversity, their leadership and development of their minority employees, and unparalleled opportunities they have afforded African American MBAs."

Other companies that made the *Black MBA Magazine's* top 50 list were PepsiCo, The Coca-Cola Company, General Motors and Wachovia.

*Black MBA Magazine*, formerly exclusively a trade magazine, will be sold at select newsstands, bookstores, and independent retail outlets beginning April 17<sup>th</sup>. Ingram Distribution will distribute *Black MBA Magazine* to Barnes & Noble and Hastings stores throughout the U.S. with the goal of increasing the circulation of the magazine.

In its 36<sup>th</sup> year, the NBMBA has more than 6,000 members and 39 chapters across the country and represents more than 100,000 black MBA graduates. Aimed at creating partnerships resulting in increased intellectual wealth and economic vitality in the black community, the association focuses on education, employment and entrepreneurship. NBMBA continues to form strategic partnerships with the country's leading *Fortune 500* companies, business corporations, organizations, universities and colleges.

**-more-**

An expected 13,000 attendees are scheduled to attend the NMBBAA's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference & Exposition in Atlanta from September 26<sup>th</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>. Last year's conference featured one of the country's largest career fairs with more than 460 of the *Fortune 500* in attendance. The annual conference offers participants job matching and networking opportunities, a series of professional development workshops, and career coaching.

In addition to the conference, the NMBBAA has a host of other program offerings. Most recently, the NMBBAA took its Local Empowerment Initiative (LEI) to Dallas, Tex. The LEI featured a keynote speech by bestselling author Stedman Graham, free GMAT preparation courses and a career fair. At the LEI, the NMBBAA awarded \$22,000 in grants to students in the Dallas area affected by Hurricane Katrina through their Student Empowerment Relief Fund (SERF), which has raised more than \$50,000 since its announcement in September 2005.

The NMBBAA's leader, Ms. Thomas, was recently praised by *Ebony* magazine, the number one magazine catering to African-Americans in the U.S. They laud Ms. Thomas in their May 2006 issue's annual *100+ Most Influential Black Americans* as one of the nation's top organization leaders. Ms. Thomas has also spoken at several business schools, including Harvard Business School, Stanford Graduate School of Business, and the Duke University Fuqua School of Business, in the first quarter of this year.

### **About the NMBBAA**

Established in 1970, the National Black MBA Association is dedicated to creating partnerships that result in increased intellectual and economic wealth in the black community through education, employment and entrepreneurship. With more than 6,000 members representing 100,000 MBA graduates in 39 chapters around the country, the NMBBAA has strategic partnerships with more than 400 of the country's top business corporations, organizations, universities and colleges. The group's 2006 annual conference and career fair, the nation's largest employment and networking event, will be held in Atlanta, September 26<sup>th</sup> through October 1<sup>st</sup>.

For more information on the NMBBAA please visit [www.nbmbaa.org](http://www.nbmbaa.org), or contact Audrey Pinn at 202.466.7717, [audrey@westinrinehart.com](mailto:audrey@westinrinehart.com) or Kathy King at 202.466.1396, [kathy@westinrinehart.com](mailto:kathy@westinrinehart.com).

###