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FIU’s COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION HONORS PROMINENT BUSINESS LEADERS AT ENTREPRENEURSHIP HALL OF FAME EVENT

MIAMI, Fla. – (May 13, 2004) – FIU’s College of Business Administration (CBA) paid tribute to alumni and local business entrepreneurs who have achieved distinction as founders and builders of new business enterprises at its annual Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Luncheon held at Parrot Jungle Island on Thursday.

This year’s Hall of Fame inductees were Joseph L. Caruncho and Justo L. Pozo, founder and president and chief executive officer, respectively, of Preferred Care Partners, the first and only state-licensed Provider Sponsored Organization (PSO) in the State of Florida that has been approved by Medicare as an alternative to the traditional Medicare and Medicare + Choice HMO. Caruncho and Pozo, who both received their B.B.A. degrees from the CBA, were chosen from among the College’s distinguished alumni. Seven alumni have been inducted to date.

Additionally, the CBA also recognized other members of the South Florida business community who are entrepreneurs, (both alumni and non-alumni). Keith St. Clair of TraveLeaders was named the 2004 South Florida Entrepreneur of the Year, Roberto Capó of El Dorado Furniture was chosen as the 2004 South Florida Family Business Alumnus and Andrew Yap of LEASA was honored as the 2004 South Florida Family Business.

“Entrepreneurship is a core area of emphasis in the College and a vital element of everything the College does – from classroom instruction to faculty research to the school’s annual international business plan competition,” said Joyce J. Elam, executive dean of the CBA, who spoke at the event. “We strive to instill in our graduates the values of innovation and discovery, and this event allows us to honor those individuals who have put these values into practice and been successful.”

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The Entrepreneurship Hall of Fame was established in 1999 through a gift provided by SunTrust Bank, Miami, to recognize individuals for their successes and significant contributions to the business community and to promote the entrepreneurial spirit throughout the CBA. This year’s event included media partnerships with South Florida CEO, NBC6 and Telemundo. Additionally, news anchors Jackie Nespral and Ambrosio Hernandez served as emcees for the event.

Florida International University’s College of Business Administration, South Florida’s business education leader with unique expertise in international business, entrepreneurship, and information technology (IT), is the largest of FIU’s professional schools. Annually, it enrolls approximately 5,000 students in its undergraduate business programs and more than 800 graduate students in its Chapman Graduate School of Business. It also is South Florida’s top-rated business research school and one of only 480 business schools in the world accredited by the AACSB International—The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. The College ranks in the top 10 among these schools in the number of students it graduates each year, and the College’s Chapman School offers the 6th largest part-time MBA program among them. Business Week (October 21, 2002) ranked it among the best in the U.S., placing it in the group with American, Fordham, George Washington, South Carolina, Syracuse, Rutgers, Tulane, and others. The August 15, 2003 issue of America Economia, a premier pan-regional business journal, rated it among the top 50 international MBA schools for Latin American students. Hispanic Business (March 2002) ranked the CBA among the top five business schools for Hispanics. The College also is one of only 30 business schools to have received a Department of Education grant to establish and support an international business center. Hispanic Trends (Summer 2003) ranked the College in its list of the Top 25 MBA programs for Hispanics. The CBA, which was featured among other leading MBA programs, was the only business school in Florida to be included in the publication’s ranking.

For additional information about the CBA and its Chapman School, please call Assistant Dean Sally Gallion at (305) 348-6631, e-mail gallions@fiu.edu or visit the College’s website at http://cba.fiu.edu.

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