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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLASS OF 2005 MBAs IS GRADUATING INTO BEST JOB MARKET IN FOUR YEARS

MIAMI, Fla. – (June 7, 2005) – This spring, MBAs are graduating with more job opportunities according to a new study conducted by the MBA Career Services Council (MBA CSC) of 68 U.S. business schools.

Ninety-two percent of the schools reported an increase in recruiting activity from the fall/winter of 2004-05 compared with the previous year, and an average of 58 percent of their graduating MBAs had one or more employment offers by mid-April.

“MBA career offices are predicting more offers, better base pay, more bonuses, and significant growth in finance, consulting, and marketing opportunities for the Class of 2005,” said Mindy Storrie, president of the MBA Career Services Council and head of career services at the University of North Carolina’s Kenan-Flagler Business School. “From a career perspective, it’s the best time since the spring of 2001 to be graduating with an MBA.”

The job market for MBA graduates in South Florida has witnessed an increase in activity over the past 12 months. According to Barry Shiflett, director of Career Management Services, at Florida International University’s Chapman Graduate School of Business, “The number of job opportunities for both permanent employment and internships has increased when compared to last year. Companies we have not seen recruiting at Florida International University are beginning to look at our MBAs due to our programs and to our student diversity.” He added that recruiting for MBA students with skills in finance and marketing has been particularly stronger this year.

Other survey findings include:

- 70 percent of the schools predict an increase in average base pay for graduates this year compared with last year
- 51 percent of the schools predict an increase in average signing bonuses
- 40 percent predict an increase in the number of graduates receiving a signing bonus.
- 66 percent of the schools reported an increase in the number of companies conducting on-campus interviews for the Class of 2005 compared with 2004
- 75 percent of the schools said there was an increase in recruiting for finance jobs, 67 percent had an increase for consulting, and 60 percent had an increase for marketing and sales
- 68 percent of the schools reported an increase in recruiting activity for interns this spring versus last spring

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The MBA CSC developed the survey, which was conducted by UC Irvine’s Paul Merage School of Business Director of Career Services Randy Williams.

Of the 68 schools that participated in the survey, 57 percent were public institutions, 46 percent ranked in a Top 25 business school listing in the past two years, and 31 percent were in a 26-50 ranking.

For more information on the study:
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