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FIU’S COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ANNOUNCES “CBA NET-BIZ CHALLENGE 2002: AN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION”

Student Teams, Coaches and Sponsors Needed for Second Annual E-Business Plan Competition

MIAMI, FL (July 9, 2001) – Joyce J. Elam, dean of Florida International University’s College of Business Administration (CBA) has announced its CBA Net-Biz Challenge 2002: An International Business Plan Competition.

The CBA Net-Biz Challenge, which will begin officially on September 9, 2001, is open to all full and part-time students (upper-division undergraduate and graduate) enrolled (2001-02 academic year) in an accredited college or university in the state of Florida, the Caribbean, Latin America, and Spain. Each team, which may have from one to five members, must have a faculty sponsor/advisor and also may elect to enlist the help of a coach from the business community. The business plan must be for an original seed, start-up or early-stage venture that incorporates information technology, telecommunications or Internet-based (B2B, B2C) components in its operations. The plan must address the complete business concept, including its implementation.

The completed application form must be received in the Challenge office no later than October 5, 2001. All business plans and submission forms are due by January 11, 2002. Five semi-finalist teams will be selected to give oral presentations of their business plans to a panel of judges in Spring, 2002. The grand prize-winning team and runner-up teams will be announced at an awards ceremony to follow.

Last year’s exciting CBA Net-Biz Challenge was highlighted by a panel of distinguished judges that included Evelyn D’An, Ernst and Young, LLP; Peter Koltis...
Arthur Andersen, LLP; Julie Neitzel, Trivest, Inc.; Jeff Sandler, HIG Ventures; Jeff White, Silicon Valley Bank; Augusto Vidaurreta, Entente Investments; Daniel Aronson, Greenberg Traurig, and Esteban Sosnik, Penguin Holdings. In addition, cash prizes were generously donated by Greenberg Traurig, LLP; HIG Ventures; Interprise Technology Partners; and Trivest, Inc.

“The CBA Net-Biz Challenge provides entrants with an extraordinary opportunity to hone their entrepreneurial abilities prior to entering the real business world,” explained Curtis Collin Cole, last year’s CBA Net-Biz Challenge winner, whose team won the $15,000 grand prize. “In addition, the Challenge encourages communication, teamwork, and collaboration – characteristics that are essential to the success of any business.”

The CBA currently is looking for members of the business community to serve as coaches for Net-Biz Challenge teams. Volunteer coaches are asked to consult with team members for a minimum of two hours. Additional sponsors for cash prizes, event sponsorship or in-kind gifts also are welcomed.

Florida International University’s College of Business Administration (CBA), South Florida’s business education leader with unique expertise in international business and information technology (IT), is the second largest of FIU’s 16 schools and colleges, enrolling approximately 3,800 undergraduate and more than 900 graduate students each year. One of only 405 business schools in the world accredited by the AACSB--International, the College offers the 8th largest part-time MBA program among this group and its IT faculty has been ranked among the top 20 (11th) in the U.S. in terms of research productivity. It is one of only 28 business schools to have received a Department of Education grant to establish and support a Center for International Business Education and Research.

For more information about the 2002 Net-Biz Challenge, to sign up as a sponsor or a coach, or to request a Challenge information and application kit, call (305) 348-4227 or visit the College’s website at www.fiu.edu/~netbiz.