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**VALERIE A. COOPER NAMED OUTSTANDING ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR FEMALE EXECUTIVES**

NEW YORK, NY (November 15, 2010)—**The National Association for Female Executives (NAFE)** recently named **Valerie A. Cooper**, of **Stamford, CT**, as "**2010 Outstanding Entrepreneur of the Year.**" Twelve women of excellence will be honored at a celebratory breakfast on December 2, 2010, at 8 AM, hosted by The New York Academy of Medicine at 1216 Fifth Avenue (at 103rd St.) in New York City. The **NAFE** defines a "woman of excellence" as one who has achieved success in her own right, then shown courage and compassion in helping others.

Valerie A. Cooper, President and Art Advisor of **Picture That LLC**, established the fine art consulting firm in 2002. The Stamford-based company provides an extensive range of fine art services to enhance the aesthetic quality of environments in public and residential spaces. In addition to providing fine art advisory, curatorial and appraisal services, **Picture That LLC** also promotes art by women and minority artists.

Valerie Cooper speaks with passion about her work, "There is a tremendous need for education and enlightenment regarding cultural inclusion and diversity in our country today. I feel extremely privileged to be able to contribute to this mission using fine art as a vehicle."

Ms. Cooper demonstrates extraordinary commitment to enrich the Stamford community and beyond. In addition to her service on many local boards—the Norwalk Community College Foundation, Cultural Art Alliance of Fairfield County, and the Stamford Old Town Hall Museum, Valerie volunteers as Director of Curatorial Services for the Stamford Center for the Arts, Palace Sackler Gallery.

Ms. Cooper's impressive background includes fifteen years on Wall Street with Goldman, Sachs & Co. She earned a Master of Business Administration from Columbia University Business School, an Appraisal Studies in Fine and Decorative Arts Certificate from New York University, and a Bachelor of Science from Morgan State University. Valerie was recently made an Associate of the Appraisers Association of America (AAA).

Each year **NAFE** honors outstanding members for their tireless service to their communities and to other women. This year, Dr. Jennifer Howse, President of the March of Dimes Foundation will receive the top honor—Woman of Achievement—by the nation's largest association of women in business.

Our Women of Excellence winners, all **NAFE** members, have wowed us with their commitment to service as well as self, having reached notable goals in their own careers and in serving the well-being of others," says Dr. Betty Spence, **NAFE** President.

"We are deeply proud of the Women of Excellence winners and awed by their achievements," says Carol Evans, President of Working Mother Media, **NAFE's** parent. "Each one demonstrates the **NAFE** qualities of leadership, innovation and standing for other women."

Sponsors for the event include: **Accenture, Geico, Grant Thornton, HSBC USA, IBM, The New York Times, Office Depot, Pitney Bowes, Unites States Navy, and WellPoint.**

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About PICTURE THAT, LLC:
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“Our mission is to enhance the aesthetic quality of environments with fine art solutions.”

PICTURE THAT, LLC, established in 2002, is a full-service fine art consulting firm, providing:

- Art programs for public, private, new construction and major renovation projects
- Framed original art, limited editions, fine art prints, photography
- Murals and sculpture
- Art collection management, appraisal, installation and transport services
- Art education programs for adults and students
- Lectures, seminars, workshops, and guided tours for private and non-profit organizations, corporations, academic and religious institutions

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Certified Woman Business Enterprise with the State of Connecticut
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About NAFE: The National Association for Female Executives and Entrepreneurs (NAFE), founded in 1972, serves 10,000 members nationwide and advocates for their careers and business success. NAFE annually names the **NAFE Top Companies for Executive Women** and publishes them in the quarterly publication *NAFE Magazine*. NAFE is a division of Working Mother Media and Bonnier Corporation.

The twelve 2010 Women of Excellence roster includes:

Activist Award: Stephanie Miller, Director, Office of Women’s Policy, U.S. Navy, for fighting for sabbaticals and parental leave for service men and women.

Children’s Health Advocate Dr. Linda J. Addonizio, started a pediatric heart transplant program;

Community Service Susan Chapman of American Express, dedication to educational goals for disadvantaged young mothers and young people in Harlem;

Creative Star: Barbara Kobren, for launching the company bobbysue’s nuts! and donating a portion of the proceeds to rebuild and support a no-kill animal shelter, the SPCA of Westchester.

Global Awareness: Lisa Gable, former Program Director of Global Initiatives at IBM, for her international work with women engineers.

Health Care Champion Johnna G. Torsone, EVP at Pitney Bowes, initiated onsite medical clinics to improve employee health.

Mentorship Pamela Craig, Chief Financial Officer at Accenture, advise and support dozens of women in their careers;

Outstanding Entrepreneur: Valerie A. Cooper, President and Art Advisor, *Picture That*, whose art consulting firm features women and minority artists.

Rising Star: Janet Malzone, Partner and Mid-Atlantic International Business Center Director, Grant Thornton, Charlotte, NC, for her rapid career success.

Service to New York City: Oraia Reid, for founding RightRides for Women’s Safety to ensure that women arrive home unharmed at night.

Social Media Star: Rita Henley Jensen, for founding and editing Women’s eNews to get out stories the mainstream media misses.

Woman of Achievement: Dr. Jennifer Howse, President of the March of Dimes Foundation, whose lifetime of service was recently crowned by the March of Dimes’ reversal of a 30-year national trend in premature births.