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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Westchester/Connecticut National Black MBA Association Announces 2008 Award Recipients**

Stamford , CT – The Westchester /Greater Connecticut Chapter of the National Black MBA Association is proud to present *Yesterday's Legacy, Tomorrow's Promise*, the organization's Second Annual Awards Ceremony, on Saturday, February 2, 2008.

Valerie A. Cooper is the recipient of the 2008 MBA of the Year Award, the chapter's marquee award and highest individual honor. Valerie is a native of Stamford, CT and a 1979 graduate of Stamford High School. She is currently the President and Owner of Stamford-based Picture That, LLC, a fine art consulting practice, after spending 15 years as a Vice President with Goldman Sachs on Wall Street.

The MBA of the Year Award recognizes an MBA member's long-standing commitment, and is given to one who embodies the values of the organization and who has significantly advanced the NBMBA's Westchester /Greater Connecticut Chapter's goals and mission. Valerie has demonstrated outstanding contributions by raising visibility, public awareness, and appreciation of the Chapter according to Chapter President Michael McNeil. This award recognizes Valerie's individual's hard work and talent that have far exceeded the chapter's expectations.

During the Awards Ceremony, the Chapter will pay tribute to 5 other individuals, businesses and colleges that have made extraordinary contributions to the advancement of the NBMBA Westchester /Greater Connecticut Chapter and have demonstrated discipline, vision, and passion and who are truly dedicated to making a difference. These recipients include UBS (Stamford), Norwalk Community College (Norwalk) and Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.(Ridgefield). The Chapter will also award 8 scholarships to top performing graduate and undergraduate business students who reside in the Westchester or Fairfield county.

Diageo NA, one of the event sponsors, will host the occasion at its Corporate Conference Center , 801 Main Avenue in Norwalk , Connecticut . The affair begins at 6:00PM with a cocktail reception, followed by the awards program from 7 to 9:00PM. Other corporate sponsors include UBS, Pitney Bowes, Boehringer Ingelheim, General Electric, and Prudential. Tickets are \$100. Purchase online [www.nbmbaa-wgc.org](http://www.nbmbaa-wgc.org) or by calling 203-977-8203.

### **About the National Black MBA Association**

The National Black MBA Association was incorporated in 1974 and was developed with the concept that the organization could lead in the creation of economic and intellectual wealth for the African American community. As a local Chapter of the organization (a not-for-profit 501c3), The mission of the Westchester/Greater Connecticut Chapter is to help increase in number as well as in diversity, successful Blacks in the business community locally, and then nationally, by providing innovative programs primarily to stimulate intellectual and economic growth.

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