

For Immediate Release
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Press Release

The National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners (NCBMP) and the National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators and Developers (NABHOOD) form Meetings and Hospitality Industry Partnership

Silver Spring, MD January 2010: The National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners (NCBMP) and the National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators and Developers (NABHOOD) formed a Meetings and Hospitality Industry Collaboration to address the demands of education, training and workforce diversity in the industry.

The mission of this unique collaboration is to provide solutions and effectively implement strategies for improvement of the status of African-Americans in the meetings and hospitality industry. This would include educational assistance, job opportunities, hotel ownership, hotel development and support of Black owned and operated venues.

Among the benefits to both organizations for combining resources through a strategic partnership are the enhancement of educational opportunities for African-American meeting executives, hospitality students and industry professionals. An added benefit will be for meeting executives to support Black owned and operated venues. This initiative will offer guidance and training for entrepreneurs who are interested in hotel ownership and development. An international database will also be maintained to promote job opportunities for NCBMP members at NABHOOD hotels.

"The current economic crisis has brought nonprofit mergers and other forms of collaboration into the spotlight. Organizations are exploring partnerships that will allow the sharing of resources and expertise for many reasons such as enhanced member services, cost saving programs and other financial indicators," said Stella Beene-Venson, president of NCBMP

"This is an extraordinary endeavor that will have a profound effect on African-American communities throughout the country. It will be a major step in **"Taking Care of Our Own"** as **"We Do Business with Our Friends"** and ensure the future of African Americans in the meetings and hospitality industry," added Andy Ingraham, President of NABHOOD.



(Left to Right) Richmond S. McCoy, Founding Partner, President &CEO/CIO, Urban America; Stella Beene-Venson, President, National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners; Andy Ingraham, President/CEO, National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators and Developers; and Warren Fields, Principle, Pyramid Advisors, LLC pose for photo after signing the meetings and hospitality industry partnership agreement.

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