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Initial Certified MBA™ Testing Begins

'Beta' Analysis and Broad Cross-Section of Applicants Will Establish Standard

MOCKSVILLE, N.C. – Dec. 12, 2002 – The International Certification Institute (ICI) – developer of the Certified MBA™, or CMBA, exam, the first objective measurement tool designed to enhance MBA marketability and the MBA hiring process – has begun CMBA 'beta,' or pilot, examinations. To date, students representing more than 200 MBA programs across the United States and internationally have applied to participate in the CMBA beta exam. Testing will continue through Jan. 31, 2003, when test developers will enter an intensive analysis stage to determine the final test design and content, as well as establish the pass-fail standard for the CMBA exam.

Galton, a part of Prometric and the leading provider of assessment and state-of-the-art certification development services, is directing the test development, which has included contributions from 35 MBA program directors and approximately 150 MBA professors from across the country.

"Developing a valid and reliable certification exam is an extensive process, involving a number of elements that are critical for success and credibility," said David F. Foster, cofounder and president of Galton. "We have done exhaustive research and development with ICI during this beta exam period. As we enter the analysis period and final stages of development, the broad range of beta applicants for this exam will have a significant and positive impact on the CMBA standard."

The current applicant pool includes candidates representing MBA programs in nearly 40 states, the District of Columbia and five foreign countries. When compared to popular media-generated rankings, the applicant pool includes students from seven of the top 10 ranked programs and approximately 70 percent of the top 50 ranked programs.

"The extensive interest in the beta exam confirms that MBA students and graduates are looking for a competitive advantage and an objective and universal tool to differentiate themselves without relying on, or competing against program prestige or school reputation," said W. Michael Mebane, managing director of ICI.

Galton's test developers will perform a detailed analysis of beta exam responses to ensure that all questions on the CMBA final exam are clear, fair and non-biased. The analysis will also confirm that MBA core curriculum subject matter is appropriately weighted and accurate. Following the analysis, responses from beta candidates will be re-scored against the final form, allowing those who achieve the passing standard to become the first Certified MBAs to enter the job market.

"We are entering the last, critical stages of preparing the final form of the CMBA exam," said Mebane. "Input from our broad and diverse range of beta exam applicants will have a significant impact on delivering a viable CMBA standard, further establishing the exam's value to both students and employers."

MBA students and graduates can apply for the CMBA beta exam by visiting www.CertifiedMBA.com or by calling ICI at 1-866-664-CMBA (1-866-664-2622) prior to the Dec. 21, 2002, application deadline. The exam will be administered at Prometric testing centers until Jan. 31, 2003. The \$375 testing fee has been waived for beta exam participants and ICI will refund the \$75 application processing fee after the beta candidate has taken the exam. The CMBA exam is scheduled to go "live" in Spring 2003.

About ICI:

The International Certification Institute was founded to develop and deliver the CMBA exam in conjunction with Galton Technologies and Prometric. Based in Mocksville, N.C., ICI is organized around its three primary constituencies - students, businesses and educators - and facilitates advisement and product development through its Council of Academic Advisors, Council of Business Advisors and Association of Certified MBAs (ACMBA). ICI's executive management is committed to working directly with this network of professional and academic bodies to add value to graduate business education and to the global institutions that depend on academic and certification institutions to educate business administrators.

About ICI Partners:

Galton (www.galton.com), a part of Prometric, provides cutting-edge, computer-based assessment and state-of-the-art certification development services. Providing a customized mix of consulting, item and test development, data management, training, research and software tools, Galton offers solutions and support for creating legally defensible exams and quality certification programs. Galton has been a leader in IT certification development serving clients such as Cisco, Oracle, Compaq, Lucent Technologies, Novell, Sun Microsystems, NCR, Nortel Networks and Intel. Galton is headquartered in Lindon, Utah.

Prometric (www.prometric.com), a part of The Thomson Corporation, is the global leader in technology-enabled testing and assessment services for information technology certification, academic admissions, and professional licensure and certifications. Prometric delivers standardized tests for more than 200 clients, in more than 25 languages, over the web or through a network of more than 4,800 testing centers in more than 140 countries. Based in Baltimore, Md., Prometric employs more than 3,000 employees worldwide.