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*For Immediate Release*

## **EXCEL Award Revenue Cap Raised to \$10 Million; Nomination Period Pushed Back**

BETHESDA, MD, January 10, 2007. The revenue cap for nonprofit organizations whose executive leaders are eligible to win an EXCEL award has been raised to \$10 million. The Excellence in Chief Executive Leadership (EXCEL) award has been administered by the Center for Nonprofit Advancement, the Washington metropolitan area's largest nonprofit membership association, to recognize nonprofit leadership in the areas of innovation, motivation, community building, ethical integrity and strategic leadership. Each year, up to three EXCEL award winners are eligible to win a \$5,000 professional development account for their continued growth as nonprofit leaders. Each recipient's organization also will receive a \$2,000 cash grant to support the nonprofit's mission.

Now heading into its third year, and its second with Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman, CPAs as the sponsoring accounting firm, the EXCEL award looks forward to building on an early history of success by opening its nomination channels to a greater audience. The program's original philosophy was to support Washington-area nonprofit leaders who could most benefit from an EXCEL award: that is, those nonprofits whose professional development funds might not be comparable to those at larger organizations. Each eligible executive director (or president, or leader at a commensurate level) had to head an organization whose revenue did not exceed \$5 million. The Center recently expressed concern, however, that this requirement unduly stressed the nonprofit's size rather than the quality of the leader.

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“We believe this decision will allow an even wider range of talented executives the opportunity to receive the recognition they deserve,” says David Graling, president of Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman.

The EXCEL award program encourages individuals with firsthand knowledge of the nonprofit sector to nominate those whose hard work and dedication they believe to be exemplary. Nominations may be submitted from volunteers, colleagues, business and community leaders, even nonprofit executives who serve on the Boards of Directors or Executive Committees of outstanding organizations. Following the nomination period, a selection committee will review all entries, interview promising candidates and conduct site visits before announcing the winners. In addition to the EXCEL award winners, up to three Honorable Mention candidates may be chosen. Each candidate’s organization receives \$500 to support the professional development of their staff.

Last year, the nomination period opened on February 15 and closed on April 21. This year, the period has shifted to a two-month period between April 1 and June 1. The 2006 EXCEL award winners were Adam Tenner, executive director of Metro TeenAIDS, Rhonda Buckley, founder and executive director of the Patricia M. Sitar Center for the Arts, and Jonathan Smith, executive director of the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia. Honorable mention candidates were Aleta Margolis, founder and executive director of the Center for Inspired Teaching and Bethany Robertson, president of the I Do Foundation.

For more information about the EXCEL award program, visit <http://www.grfcpa.com/EXCEL.html> on the World Wide Web.

The Center for Nonprofit Advancement strengthens, promotes and represents nonprofit organizations to help them better meet the diverse needs of their communities.

Bethesda, MD-based Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman, CPAs has been part of the Washington, DC metropolitan community for over 25 years. The firm provides accounting, auditing and consulting services to an extensive client base of nonprofit organizations, for-profit corporations including government contractors, research and development firms, retail businesses, professional service firms, partnerships, trusts, and individual clients. GRF is a full-service large local accounting firm with national and international affiliations.

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