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For Immediate Release

GRF Sponsors Annual Award Celebrating Nonprofit Executive Leadership in the Washington Metropolitan Region

BETHESDA, MD, February 13, 2006. The Excellence in Chief Executive Leadership (EXCEL) Award, a two-year-old program administered by the Center for Nonprofit Advancement, recognizes exemplary leadership among nonprofit executives in the Washington metropolitan region. Each year, up to three nonprofit leaders are selected through a nomination process among colleagues, to receive an award. Each EXCEL award winner receives a \$5,000 professional development account to support their further growth.

Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman, CPAs chose to sponsor this award largely due to its history of providing financial services to the nonprofit sector and its long relationship with the Center for Nonprofit Advancement.

“We’ve helped many of the Center’s members over the years,” says GRF partner Michael Freedman, who also served as the organization’s treasurer for over 20 years. “When we found out the Center was looking for a sponsor, we realized how well it dovetailed with our core practice. We help nonprofits achieve financial success so they can achieve their missions. Our firm has worked with many talented leaders over the years and we believe this award program represents a great opportunity to recognize their passion and commitment.”

Potential award recipients can be nominated from February 15 through April 21, 2006. Applications are available on the Center’s web site (www.nonprofitadvancement.org). All eligible nominees must have served in their current position as executive director, chief executive officer, president or some commensurate salaried, full-time position of a 501(c)(3) Washington-area nonprofit for at least three years. All examples of outstanding leadership included with the nomination application must have occurred during that tenure.

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Any individual with firsthand knowledge of the nonprofit sector—a staff member, a volunteer, a business or community leader, or a member of a relevant Board of Directors—can submit a nomination to help recognize excellence in chief executive leadership.

“One of the reasons we wanted to support this program,” says Mr. Freedman, “is because the EXCEL Award recognizes not only the most deserving but also those who could most benefit from the program.” All valid nominations must highlight leaders whose annual organizational budgets do not exceed \$5 million. “We believe those nonprofits with larger budgets already are in an excellent position to serve the professional development needs of their executive leaders.”

Following the April 21 nomination deadline, a Selection Committee of peers will review the submissions to determine which candidate’s qualifications position them for further consideration to receive an EXCEL Award. Nomination qualifications should focus upon an individual’s leadership philosophy, skills and experiences as a chief executive. These candidates will be interviewed in the summer, followed by site visits to their organizations and then undergo a final review process before the selection of winners. Award winners will be announced at the Center’s Annual Meeting in November 2006.

Each EXCEL awardee can use his/her funds over a two-year period for various professional development purposes, including coursework, executive coaching, leadership training, programs, conferences, book/magazine subscriptions, memberships, etc. Additionally, up to two nominees may be chosen as Honorable Mention recipients; they will receive \$500 each to support professional development programs for their staff.

“We’re very happy to be involved in such a great program,” says GRF President David Graling. “We’ve signed on to sponsor this award through 2008 and we look forward to building awareness during that time. With so many nonprofit organizations in the region, we’ve seen so many talented leaders who deserve recognition for their achievements.”

Bethesda, MD-based Gelman, Rosenberg & Freedman, CPAs (www.grfcpa.com) has been part of the Washington, DC metropolitan community for 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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