



For Immediate Release
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GSAEC spearheads accreditation of coaching programs

July 6, 2009 - A consortium of colleges and universities that offer graduate-level Executive Coaching programs is spearheading an effort to establish standards for accreditation of academic coaching programs. There are more than 200 graduate-level academic coaching programs in the United States, Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom according to a 2008 study sponsored by the Foundation of Coaching, a leader in coaching-related research. These include doctoral- and master's-level degrees and coursework, graduate certificate programs, non-degree certificate programs, and other academic coaching services for university students, faculty, staff and the community.

Paralleling the role of other accrediting bodies, such as the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) which provides accreditation for Schools of Business, the mission of the Graduate School Alliance for Executive Coaching (GSAEC) is to establish and maintain standards of excellence for education and training provided by academic institutions for the discipline and practice of executive and organizational coaching. GSAEC was founded in 2005 and includes representation from 10 universities, including Bellevue University, Fielding Graduate University, Franklin University, Kennesaw State University, Massachusetts School of Professional Psychology, University of Pennsylvania, Queens University of Charlotte, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Toronto, and Teachers College at Columbia University.

"Graduate Schools, in increasing numbers, are recognizing the need for the solid academic foundation that is required for the practice of Executive Coaching. Clear standards of educational excellence in graduate-level Executive Coaching will be invaluable to current and future programs and to

professionals seeking high quality in preparation for the field," said GSAEC Board of Directors President Ruth L. Orenstein, Psy.D.

According to Peter F. Norlin, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Organization Development Network, an international professional association committed to advancing the theory and practice of organization development, "The OD Network believes that academic standards, established and monitored by those universities that offer coaching education, would be an important way to support the level of professional conduct required in this important, new domain."

Information about GSAEC can be found at www.gsaec.org, information about the research sponsored by the Foundation of Coaching can be found at <http://pennsurveys.org/coaching>, and information about graduate-level programs offered by GSAEC institutional members can be accessed through a specially designed search engine at http://www.gsaec.org/coaching_program_search.html.