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The Social Enterprise Initiative Of The Harvard Business School Club Of Philadelphia Hosts 37 Area Nonprofit Executives For First Annual Conference

Philadelphia, PA (November 4, 2004) – The Social Enterprise Initiative of the Harvard Business School Club of Philadelphia (HBSCP) hosted the first Annual Conference, "Leading During Times of Change" on October 4, 2004 at the Mellon Bank Executive Conference Center. The conference welcomed thirty-seven CEOs and Executive Directors of major regional and local nonprofit organizations. The goal of the half-day Conference was to provide nonprofit leaders specific concepts and tools to enhance their relationships with their boards of directors and excel in their responsibilities through leadership education.

The moderator for the day was Professor Stephen Greyser, the former Co-Chair of the Harvard Business School Executive Education Seminar for Nonprofit CEOs/COOs, who led discussions on the nonprofit board, relative to strategy development, finance and CEO selection and monitoring. A theme throughout the topics discussed was the important role of the board in establishing the framework for CEO success.

David L. Cohen, Executive Vice President of Comcast Corporation, was the keynote speaker of the conference. Cohen addressed the group and spoke on the changing role of the nonprofit board member, how nonprofits need to think and act like a corporation to operate more effectively, and how to leverage and drive long-term engagement of board members.

A panel of prominent nonprofit executives discussed "The CEO and the Board - Making a Difference During Challenging Times." The Panel included Sharmain Matlock-Turner, President and Executive Director of the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, William Avery, Chairman of the Franklin Institute and Vice Chairman of the Fox Chase Cancer Center, Kathryn J. Engebretson, Ph.D., President of The William Penn Foundation and Nancy Burd, Vice President of the Programs, Nonprofit Finance Fund.

In addition to HBSCP and alumni funding, partnership support for the conference came from leading corporations and foundations in the region: United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania, Comcast Corporation, Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania, The William Penn Foundation, The Philadelphia Foundation, TL Ventures, SEI Investments, Tiffany & Company, Mellon Financial Corporation, and a locally-based investment firm which wishes to remain anonymous.

The Harvard Business School Club of Philadelphia Social Enterprise Initiative is chaired by Denean Williams, Product Manager of SEI Investments. The "Leading During Times of Change" Conference was chaired by Asuka Nakahara, Associate Director and Lecturer in Real Estate at the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. The HBSCP, one of the oldest alumni organizations in the country, represents over 1100 HBS alumni in the greater Philadelphia region.

The Harvard Business School Club of Philadelphia Social Enterprise Initiative began in 1993. Over seven years, the Club sponsored seven MBA students in summer intern positions in five Philadelphia nonprofit organizations. In 2001, the HBSCP began sponsoring and sending nonprofit CEOs to the Harvard Business School's one-week nonprofit management course. The success of this program led to this inaugural local Conference, focused on nonprofit leadership development.