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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ACG ANNOUNCES 2011 AWARD RECIPIENTS
Honorees to be formally recognized at InterGrowth 2011

15 March 2011: CHICAGO—The Association for Corporate Growth® (ACG), the global organization focused on driving middle market growth, announced today Tracy Albert, Cliff Braly, Albert D. Melchiorre, Linda Mertz, Tom Walton and Phillip Worden were selected as the 2011 Meritorious Service Award winners. The Meritorious Service Award recognizes ACG leaders who have contributed to the success of ACG through extraordinary achievement and service.

“Each of the individuals recognized plays an invaluable role in making ACG the home for middle-market growth professionals,” said Michael Carr, managing partner, BAC Investments, LLC., and current ACG chairman of the board.

Award recipients:

Tracy Albert is a managing director of Houlihan Lokey in Los Angeles where he co-heads the Capital Alliance Group and is a member of the ACG Orange County chapter. He joined ACG in 1991 and emerged as a key leader and made a huge impact as chapter president. He currently serves on the Executive Committee and board of ACG Global. But his dynamic leadership has not been limited to ACG alone. He was the founder of Business Forums International, a business-to-business network that has grown to with 30 chapters. Tracy also volunteers with several not-for-profit organizations, such as Wellness Community, Jewish Home for the Aging, American Cancer Society and is on the board of Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Los Angeles.

Cliff Braly regional managing partner, M&A Transaction Services for Deloitte Tax LLP based in Dallas, Texas, has been president of not one but two ACG chapters—ACG Dallas/Fort Worth and ACG Charlotte. Mr. Braly also was a co-founding chairman of the Texas ACG Capital Connection and recently completed a second term as chairman for the 2011 event. He has served on the ACG Global board since 2007, the Executive Committee and the past two years as chairman of the Finance Committee.

Al Melchiorre, president, MelCap Partners, LLC, has demonstrated extraordinary leadership for many years as a member of ACG Cleveland. Mr. Melchiorre formed MelCap in 2000, and has grown that firm through a relationship and value-add orientation to investment banking. He joined ACG Cleveland 1992 and first served on the chapter board in 1995. He was chapter president 1997-1999. After rotating off the board he was called back to service and was instrumental in leading the first Great Lakes ACG Capital Connection in 2009. In addition to his service to ACG, he is active in the community, serving on a number of for-profit and not-for-profit boards.

Linda Mertz, managing director, Mertz Associates, Inc., ACG Wisconsin has been a member of the ACG Wisconsin chapter shortly after its founding in 1987. She joined the chapter board as a Director in 1991 and rose to serve ACG Wisconsin as president. With Linda's strong leadership ACG Wisconsin programs went from 10 to 16, membership grew over 25 percent with the non service member ratio increasing from 57 percent to 61 percent and membership involvement in board/committee positions increased from 10 percent to 40 percent of total membership. The chapter leadership also introduced a very successful sponsorship program, which help to finance the growth, and started the ACG cup, which continues to grow and provide real value to the chapter and the community. Perhaps most importantly, as immediate past president she initiated and then led a nominating committee which developed a structure for the involvement and development of future leaders. She continues to guide and contribute to benefit the chapter as a board member.

Tom Walton, is a founder and managing director of Hanley, Hammill, Thomas where he provides comprehensive M&A and strategic advisory services to mid-market companies. He is currently a member the ACG Global Board, ACG Wisconsin's Board and has participated on numerous ACG committees. Tom chaired InterGrowth in 2009 and has been a strong advocate for, and a leader in developing programs for ACG corporate members. He has been a featured speaker and panelist at various M&A events around the globe including InterGrowth, China International Private Equity Forum and The Deal Corporate Dealmaker Forum to name a few. Mr. Walton has served on many boards including MidValley Industries and Whitefish Bay Dominican High School. In addition Mr. Walton has volunteered in leadership roles for countless not-for-profit organizations.

A veteran banking executive, **Phil Worden** is senior vice president, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, where he arranges credit capital for middle market and large corporate clients. Mr. Worden is very involved in ACG, including service as president and as a co-founder of ACG Kansas City, where he continues to provide his leadership. As a member of the ACG Global Board, he was involved with InterGrowth programming. He currently serves as Vice Chairman of the inaugural ACG Mid-America Corporate Growth Conference, which debuts May 11-12, 2011 in St. Louis, and will be Chairman of the 2012 conference when it is held in Kansas City.

“A spirit of volunteerism drives ACG,” said Gary LaBranche, CAE, president and CEO of ACG. “These exceptional leaders have contributed to the growth and development of ACG and have earned our esteem and admiration.”

In addition to these awards, ACG also announced the winners of several chapter awards and the President's Award.

Stephanie McAlaine, chapter executive, ACG Philadelphia has been selected as the recipient of the ACG President's Award for Excellence and Achievement by an ACG Chapter Executive. Given annually to a single ACG chapter executive, the award recognizes dedication to ACG over a long period of time coupled with outstanding performance as an association professional.



Association for Corporate Growth

ACG Columbus, ACG New York and **ACG San Francisco** have been selected as ACG Chapters of the Year. One chapter is recognized in each size cohort: 400+ members; 151-399 members; less than 150 members.

“These award winners have worked hard to serve members and advance the mission of ACG,” noted Carr, “They serve as role models and exemplars of dedication and leadership.”

All awards will be presented at ACG InterGrowth, the largest global conference for middle-market dealmakers and corporate development professionals. InterGrowth takes place March 21-23, in San Diego, California at the Manchester Grand Hyatt.

About ACG

ACG's 14,000 members include investors, lenders, executives and advisors for more than 20,000 of the world's best middle-market companies. Founded in 1954, ACG has grown into a global organization with 56 chapters. Learn more at www.acg.org. ACG drives middle market growth, learn how at www.middlemarketgrowth.org.