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Chicago-Area Communications Professionals Earn Accreditation Designation

Chicago, Nov. 13, 2006 – Three professional communicators have earned the Accredited Business Communicator (ABC) designation from the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC).

“Earning an ABC is an outstanding personal and professional achievement in our complex and growing field,” said Nadine Sudnick, president of the IABC/Chicago chapter. “These are professionals who have met a global standard for their ability to manage the communications function, think strategically, establish meaningful objectives and measure their success. They are among the best and brightest in our profession.”

Charlene Hill, ABC is media relations manager for the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, Oakbrook Terrace, Ill. Before joining the Joint Commission in 1999, she was director of public relations for Palos Community Hospital, Palos Heights, Ill., and manager of public relations for Gottlieb Memorial Hospital, Melrose Park, Ill. Hill earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Northern Illinois University and a master’s degree in marketing communications from Roosevelt University.

Diane Laux, ABC is principal of a communications consulting practice in Elmhurst, Ill. She established the practice in 2002 and offers strategic communications planning, public relations and employee communications services. Previously, Laux held senior-level communications positions with several technology companies, including Click Commerce, NEC Technologies and Comdisco. Laux received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communications from Northwestern University.

Madeleine Miller-Holodnicki, ABC is editor and senior communications specialist for the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals (CSCMP) in Lombard, Ill. In this role, she manages the organization’s publications, online communications and media relations programs. Before joining CSCMP in 1999, Miller-Holodnicki worked in the media in the Chicago area. Her 19 years of media experience include writing a newspaper column, hosting a radio talk show and cable television program, and producing a syndicated radio show and TV news and public affairs programs. Miller-Holodnicki earned her bachelor’s degree in journalism from DePaul University and is pursuing a master’s degree in global communications, also from DePaul. In addition to IABC, she is a member of the National Press Club, ASAE & The

Center for Association Leadership, and the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

Hill, Laux and Miller-Holodnicki have joined a select group of professional communicators – there are currently about 770 ABCs throughout the world and 15 in Chicago, according to IABC. IABC's accreditation process consists of rigorous evaluation that identifies and recognizes highly qualified, well-rounded communicators through a review of their portfolio of work, as well as written and oral examinations. Accredited business communicators have demonstrated an understanding of the ethics and philosophy of organizational communication, as well as the knowledge to plan, direct, implement and evaluate a broad range of communication programs applying that knowledge to practical, real-life situations.

The International Association of Business Communicators (IABC) is a global network of communication professionals committed to improving organizational effectiveness through strategic communication. Established in 1970, IABC serves more than 14,000 members in 67 countries with a multi-disciplinary approach to corporate communication, public relations, employee communication, marketing communication, media relations, community relations, public affairs, financial communications and government relations. IABC/Chicago (www.iabcchicago.com) is the oldest IABC chapter in the world and one of the largest IABC chapters in the United States, with nearly 500 members.

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