



**EMBARGOED UNTIL:
FEBRUARY 19, 2008, 11:00 am ET**

***Higher Education Community Launches Major Initiative to
Strengthen Campus Safety and Security***

***New Comprehensive Assessment Will Address
All Threats
Faced by Colleges and Universities Today***

Washington, DC, February 19, 2008, 11:00 am ET – A major initiative to address all threats faced by colleges and universities and to strengthen their safety and security was launched today by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) in partnership with several higher education associations. This comprehensive new assessment of the wide-ranging risks common to all institutions will explore key safety and security threats and deliver information to help campuses prepare. Study results will include guidance on preparing emergency management plans for prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery related to threats of every nature—natural disasters, infectious diseases, shootings, terrorist attacks, cyber attacks--all types of events with the potential for devastation.

Partners Taking a Comprehensive, Integrated Approach to Shared Risks

“What makes this initiative unique is the coming together of so many organizations within the higher education community to deal with a tremendous common problem,” notes John Walda, president and CEO of NACUBO. “On any given day, any institution, no matter what size or scope, can be brought down by a violent crime, a hurricane or ice storm or tornado, a pandemic outbreak—the list goes on. We’ve seen just this month, unfortunately, in Tennessee, how weather can wreak havoc on a campus. With our new assessment, we will keep in mind the different factors that influence emergency management approaches at different types of institutions while we focus on the core similarities among the threats and among the campuses that wind up as victims.”

The organizations partnering with NACUBO in this initiative are:

- *American College Personnel Association (ACPA)
- *APPA (Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers)
- *Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB)
- *EDUCAUSE
- *International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (IACLEA)
- *National Association of College and University Attorneys (NACUA)
- *University Risk Management and Insurance Association (URMIA)

Mark Luker, vice president of EDUCAUSE, underscores the importance of addressing campus threats through a multi-organizational effort: “EDUCAUSE, for example, has investigated cyber security and assisted institutions in solving related problems. Expanding on our past efforts in the

most meaningful way to colleges and universities requires more of an enterprise approach. We're looking forward to this opportunity to integrate the concerns and work of EDUCAUSE with those of our partners in the higher education community who represent other components of campus life.

The value of the campus safety and security initiative is greatly enhanced by the inclusion of the trustees' perspective, represented by the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. AGB president Richard Legon points out that "governing boards need to be certain that sound policies are in place that ensure the safety of students, faculty, and staff. Boards also must be certain that workable policies exist to respond effectively to crises when they occur. Board members recognize the leadership role of campus administrators in safety and security efforts, and AGB looks forward to sharing the outcomes of the new study with higher education's volunteers."

Strong Collection of Study Deliverables Will Give Campuses Valuable Guidance

According to the study director, James A. Hyatt, retired executive vice president and COO of Virginia Tech, numerous deliverables will result from the all-threats initiative. "For the next 12 months, we'll conduct research through a survey of a cross-section of colleges and universities to identify the current state of emergency preparedness," Hyatt explains. "The project team will also do onsite research by visiting a diverse set of campuses—urban and rural, large and small, community colleges, public and independent institutions. Some of the key results from our exploration will be a symposium on taking an all-threats approach to campus safety and security, plus a campus self-assessment instrument."

As the study moves forward, updates will be provided to the media on key progress points stemming from this critical initiative.

About NACUBO

NACUBO, founded in 1962, is a nonprofit professional organization representing chief administrative and financial officers at more than 2,100 colleges and universities across the country. NACUBO's mission is to promote sound management and financial practices at colleges and universities.

NACUBO and its partners would be pleased to provide further information. To arrange interviews with John Walda or James A. Hyatt, please contact:

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