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NEWS RELEASE

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100 BLACK WOMEN AND BELMONT UNIVERSITY PARTNER TO LAUNCH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Program will serve as a national model for organization

NASHVILLE – (March 8, 2013) – The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. (NCBW), Metropolitan Nashville Chapter has announced the establishment of a leadership development certification program in collaboration with Belmont University designed to train and prepare African-American women for leadership service on nonprofit, government and corporate boards.

The new initiative, which will operate through Belmont University's College of Business Administration, strives to develop and market competent, qualified and committed professional business women of color gain access and share their skill sets to help organizations reach their full potential. In addition to the 100 Black Women and Belmont, several other supporting organizations have signed on to the effort, including the Nashville Coalition of 100 Black Women Foundation, Inc., Meharry Medical College, HCA and members of the national leadership arm of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Incorporated.

“This effort has been several years in the making and we are very excited about the development of a program like this which has so much value in shaping the diversity and perspective of board leadership,” said Veronica Marable-Johnson, president of NCBW Nashville. “We seek to create a resource for organizations seeking well-trained and knowledgeable black women who are ready to contribute to the overall management, growth and success of organizations.”

The certification program will have three tiers focusing on nonprofit leadership, government and corporate leadership and provide an introduction to the basics of board service, governance, strategic planning and overall responsibilities. The first module of the program will be launched in fall 2013.

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“The College of Business Administration at Belmont University is proud to partner with the National Coalition of 100 Black Women and the Metropolitan Nashville Chapter to create a leadership development program that will prepare African-American women to serve and assume leadership roles on corporate, government and nonprofit boards. The competencies emphasized in the program will enhance every aspect of a potential board member’s skill set for board service, from time management to strategic thinking,” said Belmont’s College of Business Administration Dean, Pat Raines.

The African-American Women on Boards Certification Program with Belmont will be used as a model for board governance that may expand to NCBW chapters across the country, according to NCBW National President, M. Delois Strum.

"NCBW's national leadership applauds the work of our Nashville chapter to launch its partnership with Belmont University and bring about a branded program of leadership training of members and constituents to successfully serve on local and regional boards as change agents, and represent the voice of African-American women in the metropolitan Nashville community," said M. Delois Strum, NCBW national president. "We look to this effort of the NCBW Nashville Chapter as a future model to be exported to other NCBW chapters in support of our national mission to elevate the voice and profile of black women as leaders and key influencers on governmental, civic, cultural and educational boards."

ABOUT THE 100 BLACK WOMEN-METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE CHAPTER

The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc. (NCBW) advocates on behalf of women of color through national and local actions and strategic alliances that promote its national and international agendas on leadership development and gender equity in the areas of health, education and economic development. The Metropolitan Nashville Chapter was installed on March 15, 1994.

ABOUT BELMONT UNIVERSITY

Ranked No. 7 in the Regional Universities South category and named for the fifth consecutive year as one of the top “Up-and-Comer” universities by *U.S. News & World Report*, Belmont University consists of approximately 6,650 students who come from every state and 25 countries. Committed to being a leader among teaching universities, Belmont brings together the best of liberal arts and professional education in a Christian community of learning and service. The university’s purpose is to help students explore their passions and develop their talents to meet the world’s needs. With more than 80 areas of study, 23 master’s programs and five doctoral degrees, there is no limit to the ways Belmont University can expand an individual's horizon. For more information, visit www.belmont.edu.