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## **GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES NEW CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

FAIRFAX, Va., November 15, 2007 – George Mason University today announced the formation of a new Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship. The center, a university-wide initiative, will further the educational and professional opportunities of real estate industry professionals in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and beyond. The center will focus on shaping the next generation of real estate leaders and help them anticipate and meet the challenges of changing markets.

Utilizing existing resources and expertise from the School of Management, School of Public Policy and Volgenau School of Information Technology and Engineering, the center will offer degree programs in areas of real estate development such as land use and environmental considerations, acquisition dynamics and construction management.

The Washington, D.C., region is the fourth largest metro area in the United States, and its real estate market is one of the most desirable investment markets in the world. To provide the most valuable and pertinent education offerings, geared toward the needs of the National Capital Region, Mason will work in partnership with the Northern Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP). Additionally, key members of the Washington real estate community will serve as adjunct faculty and guest lecturers, providing students the opportunity to take their educational experience beyond textbooks by learning from and analyzing success stories of the region.

"The Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship is a perfect example of how George Mason University continues to serve the region by developing new academic programs to address a pressing economic need," said Alan Merten, president of George Mason University. "The courses that will become part of the curriculum are top-notch and taught by terrific faculty, and those we develop over the next year will meet the same high standards. I am especially pleased

to offer a program that will help the many companies in this area who have been so important to the success of George Mason University."

"The Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship will play a critical role in the region's commercial real estate industry by producing the next generation of leading industry professionals, people who can not only get the job done, but can take the lead," said Eric Wells, 2007 chairman of the Northern Virginia chapter of NAIOP. "NAIOP's commitment to the center includes a goal to contribute two million dollars from our membership. We currently have commitments exceeding one million dollars."

The Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship will begin offering graduate certificates and real estate concentrations in existing graduate degree programs in spring 2008. Master's degree programs and a comprehensive undergraduate degree program are currently being established.

"Our graduates have a reputation for being smart, hard-working and adding value to their employers from the first day on the job," says Merten "I have no doubt this program will produce the kind of graduates who will support and sustain this industry that is so vital to the region."

For more information about the Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship, please visit their Web site at <http://realestate.gmu.edu/>.

*Editor's Note: Mason President Alan Merten will announce the new Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship this evening at the annual NAIOP awards gala. The gala begins with a reception at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Ritz-Carlton, Tyson's Corner. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Jennifer Edgerly at [jedgerly@gmu.edu](mailto:jedgerly@gmu.edu) or (703) 993-8699.*

### **About George Mason University**

George Mason University, located in the heart of Northern Virginia's technology corridor near Washington, D.C., is an innovative, entrepreneurial institution with national distinction in a range of academic fields. With strong undergraduate and graduate degree programs in engineering, information technology, biotechnology and health care, Mason prepares its students

to succeed in the work force and meet the needs of the region and the world. Mason professors conduct groundbreaking research in areas such as cancer, climate change, information technology and the biosciences, and Mason's Center for the Arts brings world-renowned artists, musicians and actors to its stage. Its School of Law is recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top 35 law schools in the United States.

### **About the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties**

The National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP) is a national trade association with more than 15,000 members and an extensive network of 54 chapters that represent the interests of developers and owners of industrial, office and related commercial real estate throughout North America. Northern Virginia NAIOP is a regional chapter of the association for commercial and industrial real estate developers, owners and investors and service providers for the industry. Chartered in 1980, Northern Virginia NAIOP has more than 780 members throughout the region. The association provides educational programs, state and local legislative representation and networking opportunities for the commercial and industrial development industry.

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