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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**FIRST ANNUAL DIVERSITY COUNCIL HONORS AWARD™ RECIPIENTS RECOGNIZED**

**Atlanta, Georgia March 18, 2009...**The Association of Diversity Councils recognized the top 25 organizational diversity councils in the US with the First Annual Diversity Council Honors Award™ given during the Diversity Council Honors Award Reception last evening at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Summit on Leading Diversity Conference in Atlanta. The award recognizes and honors the outstanding contributions and achievements of the nation's top 25 diversity council groups that lead diversity processes in their organizations and have demonstrated results in their workforce, workplace and marketplace. The 2009 First Annual Diversity Council Honors Award™ recipients include:

1. Boehringer Ingelheim USA Corporation
2. Lockheed Martin
3. Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne Inc.
4. Ameren
5. CSX
6. Sun Microsystems, Inc. Global LCO Inclusion Council
7. Cargill Women's Council
8. NYSE Euronext
9. American Airlines
10. Bayer HealthCare, Berkeley Diversity Council
11. Navy Diversity Directorate Strategic Diversity Working Group (SDWG)
12. Comcast Corporation
13. American International Group, Inc.
14. The University of Iowa
15. FedEx Freight Inc.
16. Hyatt Hotels & Resorts
17. Diageo North America
18. SSM Health Care
19. DREAM Committee-Mercy Medical Center
20. United States Steel Corporation
21. Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES)
22. International Paper
23. NW Natural
24. Gannett Co., Inc.
25. IKON Office Solutions

A panel of independent judges evaluated applications submitted by council groups that have been in operation for at least two (2) years. Applicants were evaluated on contributions and achievements in four categories: Demonstrated Council Results; Demonstrated Management Commitment; Measurement and Accountability; and, Communication and Education. Every applicant will receive a "report card" based on the information provided in their application. This data will include results for each of the 4 specific focus areas, and will provide them a statistical baseline upon which they may build.

Janice E. Bowman, President of the Association of Diversity Councils and the creative force behind the Diversity Council Honors Award, says, "The work of these top Councils elevates the overall significance and value of all Councils. The strategies, tactics, activities, commitments, results and achievements they have identified help to set the standard of excellence for diversity and inclusion councils on a national level, and provide inspiration for all who are on the front lines of diversity and inclusion every day."

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The Association of Diversity Councils (ADC) a division of PRISM International, Inc., is dedicated to increasing the impact, effectiveness and recognition of diversity councils as an essential partner in developing, implementing and maintaining a strategic diversity focus within organizations. The ADC offers participation in a member-based network of organizational diversity councils; and provides leading edge diversity council consulting experiences for councils in all stages of development and operation. For more information visit, [www.DiversityCouncils.com](http://www.DiversityCouncils.com) or call 1.866.220.6370

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