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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MINORITY CONTRACTORS UPPER MIDWEST CHAPTER

PRESS RELEASE

The National Association of Minority Contractors – Upper Midwest Chapter To Hold Annual Gala Featuring Dr. Melvin Gravely

Minneapolis, November 22, 2011: The National Association of Minority Contractors – Upper Midwest Chapter would like to announce their annual Gala, which will be held on December 3, 2011. The theme of the Gala is, “Raising the Bar for a New Standard of Excellence.” Dr. Melvin Gravely, the nationally known minority business expert and founder of the *Institute for Entrepreneurial Thinking* will act as the keynote speaker at this year's Gala.

The NAMC-UM is a nonprofit trade association dedicated empowering minority contractors. Its motto is, “Building Bridges – Crossing Barriers,” and focuses on the construction industry concerns common to African Americans, Asian Americans, Hispanic Americans, and Native Americans.

One of the NAMC-UM's primary objectives is to actively pursue educational and training programs designed to enhance the competitiveness of its members. These training programs allow minority contractors to achieve excellence and position themselves to be successful in procuring contracts and jobs in both the public and private sector.

The NAMC-UM's president, Valerie McKissak, stated that, “We are extremely excited to bring Dr. Gravely as the keynote speaker at this year's Gala. His speech will be focusing on how minority contractors can raise the bar for themselves and create thriving minority businesses through access and opportunity.”

Dr. Gravely' speech will be a candid conversation focusing on the realities, challenges and opportunities of minority business development. He will focus on the association's common goal to be competitive, explain market trends, changing sourcing strategies, and what it takes to have ultimate success in a minority owned business.

Valerie McKissak, the NAMC-UM's president, is available to the press for interviews discussing the state of the construction industry for minority contractors as well as the upcoming Gala.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE