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For Immediate Release

**College of Business Announces New
Part-time, Evening MBA for Working Professionals**

Champaign, Ill., February 25, 2005 – Central Illinois working professionals who want to enhance their career opportunities will soon have a new option for obtaining an MBA degree. The College of Business at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign announced today a part-time, evening MBA designed specifically for working professionals. Students take classes two evenings a week, complete the program in 2 ½ years, and learn from the distinguished faculty in the College of Business. An information session about the new program is scheduled for April 16, 2005.

“Our goal is to provide working professionals with general management knowledge and leadership skills to prepare them for positions of increased responsibility,” said Mary Miller, associate dean of the Illinois MBA program and the coordinator of the new initiative. “The part-time, evening program has the same rigorous curriculum found in our nationally ranked, executive MBA.”

“An MBA degree is an investment in the future,” said College of Business Dean Avijit Ghosh. “It provides an advanced level of knowledge and skills in management as well as a well-developed understanding of strategic thinking and planning. This program will enhance the ability of businesses in the region to attract and retain young professionals. The College is proud to be offering the Part-time Evening MBA to the residents of central Illinois.”

The cohort class structure in the program offers a collective professional experience for students, who enter and graduate as a class. This team approach gives students diverse perspectives on topics for a more challenging and stimulating learning experience. Being part of a team also helps students balance the demands of their careers with the demands of the program.

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Classes are held on the Urbana campus between 6:00 and 9:00 p.m., two nights a week. Students have a break each July and August. The curriculum, which features a modular format, does not follow the traditional semester schedule of the Urbana campus. The pay-as-you-go tuition plan makes the program budget friendly.

Applications will be accepted online starting September 1 and completed applications must be on file by November 1. The first cohort will enter in January 2006 and graduate in July 2008.

An information session about the new program will be held in room 120 Architecture Building, 608 East Lorado Taft Drive, Champaign, on April 16 from 10:00-11:00 a.m. To be invited to other recruiting sessions or to learn more about the Part-time Evening MBA, sign up online to join the mailing list. The address form is online at www.mba.uiuc.edu/m/Admissions/Mailing%20List/.

Nationally recognized as one of the leading business schools, the College of Business at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has outstanding programs in accountancy, business administration, and finance. The College enrolls approximately 3,000 undergraduates and 850 graduate students in MBA, master's, and doctoral programs.

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For qualified experts on a variety of business issues, access the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Business Expert Data Base at www.business.uiuc.edu/experts.

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