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NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Six business leaders join Portland Business Alliance Board of Directors

Sam Brooks becomes board chair

Portland, Ore...Six business leaders have been named to the Portland Business Alliance board of directors, and nine board members will step into leadership roles for the organization effective July 1.

Sam Brooks, president of Brooks Staffing and founder of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME), takes over the position of chair of the board on July 1. He is the first African-American board chair in the Alliance's 137-year history.

"Sam Brooks has been involved with the Alliance board of directors for 20 years, and is a pillar in the Portland business community," said Sandra McDonough, Alliance president and CEO. "He has worked tirelessly on behalf of minority- and women-owned businesses through OAME, and we are fortunate that he will be leading our organization this next year."

Other individuals moving into leadership positions with the Alliance include:

Judy Pepler, CEO of Qwest - Oregon and the 2006-2007 Alliance board chair, will become Chair Emeritus.

Steve Holwerda, Chief Operating Officer of Ferguson Wellman Capital Management Inc, will move to the position of chair-elect. Holwerda is in line to become board chair in July 2008.

Charles Wilhoite, Director of Willamette Management Associates, will become Treasurer of the Alliance.

Calvin Collins, Group Vice President, North American Operations for ESCO Corporation, will become Secretary.

Marty Stewart, Vice President of Sales and Marketing for The ODS Companies, was elected Vice Chair of Membership.

Julia Brim-Edwards, Director of State and Public Affairs for Nike, will become Vice Chair of Economic Development.

Debbie Kitchin, Principal of InterWorks, LLC, will fill the Executive Committee position representing small business.

Ron Beltz, Regional Vice President of Louis Dreyfus Property Group, will represent Portland Downtown Services, Inc. (PDSI), on the Executive Committee. He becomes chair of PDSI on July 1.

Steve Clark, President and Publisher of Community Newspapers, joins the Executive Committee as Member at Large.

New members of the Alliance Board of Directors are:

- Bruce Randall, Regional Vice President, Macy's
- Wally Van Valkenburg, Managing Partner, Stoel Rives, LLP
- Karen Williams, Attorney, Lane Powell
- John Willis, Area Manager, CH2M Hill
- Larry Becker, President and CEO, Liberty Northwest
- Debbie Kitchin, Principal, InterWorks

"These professionals have shown their commitment to the business community by supporting the Alliance in working toward a strong and vibrant economy for the entire region," said McDonough. "We value the experience and insight that our new board members bring from their respective industries."

The Portland Business Alliance is Greater Portland's Chamber of Commerce and represents more than 1,300 businesses in the greater Portland region.

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