



# **NEWS**

## **The United States Conference of Mayors**

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006  
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352  
E-mail: [info@usmayors.org](mailto:info@usmayors.org) URL: [usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)

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Contact: Elena Temple  
(Capital Hilton) 202-639-4346  
[etemple@usmayors.org](mailto:etemple@usmayors.org)  
Dan Thoms (CampusMBA) 202-557-2915

### **MAYORS AND MORTGAGE BANKERS ASSOCIATION UNVEIL PLAN TO EXPAND MORTGAGE BANKING PROFESSION FOR MINORITIES**

Washington, D.C. – The U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), through its Council for Investment in the New American City and the Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA), is pleased today to announce a new initiative that will help to attract and train culturally diverse populations to consider real estate finance and mortgage banking as a profession.

This new initiative builds upon MBA's already successful *Path to Diversity* program ([www.pathtodiversity.com](http://www.pathtodiversity.com)), which is designed to increase cultural diversity within the industry. It will connect the USCM's Workforce Development Council with the award winning education and training program -- CampusMBA. Further, USCM Workforce Development Council members will be able to offer to qualified minorities who come through their workforce development programs the opportunity to take 'on-line' introductory courses offered by CampusMBA ([www.campusmba.org](http://www.campusmba.org)).

"We are extremely pleased that CampusMBA is providing this important opportunity for minorities to be trained in the real estate finance industry. We acknowledge that increasing minority homeownership also means increasing minority representation in the entire industry and are proud to be a part of this effort," said Conference President and Hempstead Mayor James Garner.

The CampusMBA courses offered will focus on the basics of the real estate finance and mortgage banking. In addition, the program will enable participants an opportunity to seek employment in the industry through its Lender Careers website ([www.lendercareers.com](http://www.lendercareers.com)), as well as MBA member companies who join the effort.

"MBA is once again pleased to continue our successful work with our nation's mayors to promote investment, economic development and jobs in America's cities" said Robert M. Couch, Chairman of the Mortgage Bankers Association.

"We look forward to having the Mayors work with us to create a pool of potential new members for our profession, especially among the African-American and Hispanic communities. Through our outreach efforts, we hope to attract and train individuals so that our industry may develop a culturally diverse workforce to help us achieve our goal of increasing minority homeownership in communities all across America," Mr. Couch concluded.

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*The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.*

*The Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) is the national association representing the real estate finance industry. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the association works to ensure the continued strength of the nation's residential and commercial real estate markets; to expand homeownership prospects through increased affordability; and to extend access to affordable housing to all Americans. MBA promotes fair and ethical lending practices and fosters excellence and technical know-how among real estate finance professionals through a wide range of educational programs and technical publications. Its membership of approximately 2,700 companies includes all elements of real estate finance: mortgage companies, mortgage brokers, commercial banks, thrifts, life insurance companies and others in the mortgage lending field. For additional information, visit MBA's Web site: [www.mortgagebankers.org](http://www.mortgagebankers.org).*

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