



NIRI-CHICAGO WORKSHOP FOCUSES ON INVESTOR RELATIONS TRENDS

Award-winning event features keynote by former SEC chairman David S. Ruder

CHICAGO - August 31, 2005 - The Chicago Chapter of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI) will hold its annual workshop on September 15 and 16 at the Holiday Inn-Chicago Mart Plaza in downtown Chicago. Winner of NIRI's "Best Special Event" award for a large chapter, the workshop addresses the vital topics and trends impacting the practice of investor relations, a strategic management responsibility that integrates finance, communications, marketing and securities law compliance.

This year's workshop, "A Winning Game Plan: A Playbook for Today's IR Arena," is designed to help investor relations professionals stay current with the industry's best practices and covers five key areas: analysts and portfolio managers, financial media, corporate governance, senior investor relations professionals, and corporate directors.

Keynote speaker for the event is David S. Ruder, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and currently professor of Law at Northwestern University, who will speak on "Current Trends in Corporate Governance," including growing shareholder activism, the effects of Sarbanes-Oxley, and possible legislation and programs initiated by the new SEC leadership.

"This event will provide attendees with the crucial information they need to navigate this ever-changing field," said Kevin P. Kelly, 2005 NIRI-Chicago workshop chairman. "We've surveyed NIRI members and industry practitioners to uncover current and emerging issues facing investor relations officers and have brought together nationally-recognized experts to address these issues and provide a winning game plan."

Attendance is open to the public, with last year's workshop garnering attendance from professionals across the Midwest and Canada. The program begins on Thursday, September 15, with a pre-event evening reception from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The full-day seminar begins on Friday, September 16, at 7:30 a.m. with registration, continental breakfast and an exhibitor showcase. The cost is \$100 for NIRI members and \$125 for non-members through September 2. After that date, the cost is \$125 for NIRI members and \$150 for non-members.

More information on the 2005 workshop is available in the Events section of the NIRI-Chicago Web site at www.niri-chicago.org. Archived audio Webcasts of three 2004 workshop sessions are also located on the Web site: "Loaded for Bear - Activist Investors Prepare for 2005 Annual Meeting Season," "Hedge Funds - Friend, Foe or Mystery," and "Heating Up - IR Jobs and Career Management." To replay these sessions, visit <http://www.niri-chicago.org/cg/events/webcasts.shtml>.

About NIRI-Chicago

The Chicago Chapter of the National Investor Relations Institute (NIRI-Chicago) works to advance the practice of investor relations and meet the growing professional development needs of those engaged in the field. With more than 200 members, NIRI-Chicago is one of the largest NIRI chapters in the United States and received NIRI's Best Overall Large Chapter Award in 2004. Its members include corporate officers, consultants, service providers, academics, and others involved in the practice of investor relations, a strategic management responsibility that integrates finance, communication, marketing and securities law compliance. More information about NIRI-Chicago is available at www.niri-chicago.org.