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**Skanska Helps to Build Community, Boost Business
For Minority Contractors in New York City**

Yesterday, 38 students graduated from the Construction Management “Building Blocks” Program at the City College of New York [CCNY]. The seven-week adult education program prepares minority, women, and small business contractors to be leading competitors in the development and construction industry. It is the second “Building Blocks” program organized by Skanska, which teamed this year with CCNY and the Harlem Business Alliance, Inc. The ceremony took place at CCNY’s Shepard Hall.

The “Building Blocks” program dovetails with public and private sector initiatives to encourage growth for minority- and women-owned businesses. Speakers featured at the graduation ceremony included Michael Jones-Bey, Director of the Division of Minority and Women Business Development for New York State; Warren Whitlock, Director and Construction Coordinator for Columbia University Facilities; Walter Edwards, Chairman of the Harlem Business Alliance, Inc.; and James R. Threaskill, Skanska’s National Diversity Director. Speakers also included three graduating students, Ramona Grey-Harris from Edwards Sister Realty, Wendell Niles from Niles Advertising & Display Solutions Inc., and Diloo Brown from Brown Fox Development Corp.

“Skanska is committed to diversification, both internally and externally,” explained Alton Lewis, Skanska’s Project Executive and Vice President from the New York office. “One way is to extend our professional relationships into local communities – such as Harlem – with which we do business. We’re not only helping to construct a physical infrastructure, but a social and economic one as well.” Skanska and the Harlem Business Alliance, Inc. are working collaboratively to ensure greater minority, women, and small business participation in major city developments. Skanska is currently a member of the Harlem Business Alliance, Inc. and is also the construction manager for CCNY’s Advanced Science Research Center Complex on its Harlem campus.

“The more you get a community involved in its own development,” Lewis remarked, “the more like partners you become.” He added that “it’s good for the community, it’s good for Skanska, and it’s good for New York.”

Regina Smith, Executive Director and Vice President of the Harlem Business Alliance, Inc., stated that “the program supports our goal to increase contracting opportunities for Harlem businesses. It gives local contractors the opportunity to improve their professional and networking skills so that they can be more competitive, in the community and throughout New York City.”

This year, Skanska hired a student from the program, Safiy Abdur-Rahman, to work on the construction of the New Meadowlands Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey. A second student, Omar Salha, was hired by instructor Deborah Bradley to work at Deborah Bradley Construction & Management Services.

The Building Blocks Program is a response to pressure increasingly felt by the New York construction industry as the city enters into a period of intense building. With the New York Building Congress forecasting an 18 percent increase in construction spending for New York between 2006 and 2009, Skanska New York aims to prepare local minority and women professionals to be major players in this emerging upswing.

The series covers topics including marketing, estimating, project startup and closeout, scheduling accounting, legal process, human resources, safety, and bonding. Lewis teaches both construction management techniques and “Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design,” a basic introduction to the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED® certification process and sustainable development.

Of the 21 instructors, Skanska’s members are Van Thompson, Project Manager; Jennifer Buermann, Regional Manager of Systems and Controls; Marty Bruno, Environmental Health and Safety Director; Paul Deremer, Site Safety Manager; Dana Jones, Director of Project Accounting; Angela Moulton, Group Director of Project Accounting; Carrie Key, Corporate Director of Financial Reporting; Steve Bitterman, Manager of Taxation; and Daniel Shay, Human Resources Service Leader.

Background on Skanska

Skanska is one of the world’s leading construction groups. The Skanska Group currently has 56,000 employees worldwide. Skanska USA Building has approximately 4,000 employees in the U.S. and 200 working in their New York office. Recent awards in the New York area include the United Nations Headquarters Renovation Project, the Brooklyn Bridge Park, the New Meadowlands Stadium, and hundreds of other projects in locations across the country. Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, Skanska's sales in 2006 totaled \$17 billion.

Background on The Harlem Business Alliance, Inc.

The Harlem Business Alliance, Inc. [HBA] was founded in 1980 by a group of prominent Harlem business leaders and incorporated in 1990 as a class 402 501[c][3] corporation. HBA has worked diligently to establish Harlem as an economically self-sustaining community. Over the years, HBA has

developed cohesive public/private partnerships to assist existing and emerging businesses, community residents, and youth.

Background on the City University of New York

The City University of New York is the nation's largest urban public university with 23 institutions. The University serves more than 226,000 degree-credit students and 230,000 adult, continuing, and professional education students. "College Now," the University's academic enrichment program for 32,500 high school students, is offered at CUNY campuses and more than 280 high schools throughout the five boroughs of New York.

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