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PUERTO RICO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI SCHOOL OF BUSINESS TO HOST PREMIER FORUM ON EDUCATION, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & EXPORTS

San Juan, Puerto Rico – The Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce (PRCC) and the University of Miami (UM) School of Business Administration today announced a partnership to co-host a premier trade and policy forum on education, entrepreneurship and exports and their role in competitiveness and economic development. The **"First E³ Summit of the Americas 2011"** will be held April 7, 2011 as the main event of the Exports Week, taking place from April 1st to 7th in San Juan, Puerto Rico. This event will bring together leading regional and international stakeholders involved in the economic development of the Caribbean and Latin America. The conference will feature discussions on the economic outlook for the region, the role of education in developing the next generation of entrepreneurs, opportunities for new ventures in foreign markets, public-private partnerships, opportunities in renewable energy and more.

Pablo Figueroa, Chairman of the **First E³ Summit of the Americas 2011**, pointed out that "We have formed this strategic alliance with The University of Miami (UM) School of Business Administration well aware that, in a highly competitive global economy, innovation, productivity, entrepreneurial and capacity skills achieved through a world class education, is

crucial. The Summit Conference will be one of the tools we will use to achieve this and to promote investment opportunities in the Western Hemisphere Region". Figueroa added, "We are announcing today the celebration of an event that targets an international audience of investors and is planned, organized and promoted in alliance with one of the most prestigious institutions in higher education in business".

"As the region struggles to rebound from the global financial crisis, the business sectors that drive economic development face unprecedented challenges," said Eng. Raúl Gayá, Chairman of the Board of the PRCC. "The **First E³ Summit of the Americas 2011** will foster an engaging and intellectually stimulating discussion that we hope will lead to the type of entrepreneurial solutions that will rekindle the economy and lead to sustained growth."

Leading business, government and academic leaders participating in the conference will share their experiences and best practices on how to proactively face unprecedented challenges by developing a new cadre of high performing leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs and by seizing and taking advantage of the myriad of investment opportunities available in the region.

"The University of Miami School of Business Administration has been committed to supporting and nurturing new business creation for more than 60 years," said Frances Aldrich Sevilla-Sacasa, Interim Dean of the School and one of the conference keynote speakers. "An important part of our mission is to share our thought leadership in this area and we are delighted to partner with the Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce to help identify and support the investment opportunities that will drive economic growth in the Caribbean and throughout Latin America."

Other keynote speakers include Luis G. Fortuño Burset, Governor of Puerto Rico; Thomas J. Donahue, President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce; Ken Colwell, Director of Entrepreneurship Programs at the UM School of Business Administration; David E. Lewis, Vice President of Manchester Trade Inc.; Joseph Ganitsky, Research Professor at the UM School of Business Administration and Director of the University's Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), Arthur L. Smith, President of Management Analysis Incorporated (MAI) and CEO of USA National Council for Public Private Partnerships; and Laura Morton, Senior Advisor on Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

For more information and to register for the E³ Summit of the Americas 2011, visit www.camarapr.org.

The Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization established in 1913. It is the most inclusive multi-sector organization on the island, and it has traditionally been the voice that represents the private sector. Each year, multiple events, such as this one, are organized to promote and facilitate opportunities that will support the socioeconomic development of Puerto Rico.

The University of Miami (UM) School of Business Administration delivers its long-running Executive MBA in Puerto Rico. It is the only such program in Puerto Rico to be ranked among the world's top Executive MBA programs by the Financial Times. For more information about the University of Miami, School of Business Administration, visit <u>www.bus.miami.edu</u>.

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