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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Promoting Accounting Education: IMA Signs Cooperative Agreement with NAF**

**Montvale, N.J., December 18, 2007** -- In its quest for furthering management accounting education, IMA® is pleased to announce the signing of a national cooperative agreement with the National Academy Foundation (NAF), a 501 (c)3 nonprofit organization. NAF maintains a network of small learning communities within existing high schools participating in NAF's career-themed academies, including finance.

Through this partnership, IMA and its members can get involved by working with local high schools and students participating in the program. NAF's program is designed to prepare high school students for future careers through a combination of school-based curricula and work-based experiences. The industry component features paid internships, which provide students with a real-world context for their classroom learning. Industry professionals can also volunteer in classrooms, serve as mentors, participate in speaking engagements, and provide training opportunities for teachers.

"While IMA continues to educate the business and higher-education communities about the vital role management accountants play in business, it's important to reach students at the high school level. By educating young people about the worthwhile careers in management accounting, we will develop the future generation of the profession and our organization," said Paul A. Sharman, ACMA, IMA president and CEO.

"The National Academy Foundation is pleased to be working with IMA to ensure that high school students across the country receive the critical mentoring, internships and industry support they need to be exposed to careers in the financial services industries," said JD Hoyer, president of the National Academy Foundation. "NAF's model of career academies at the high school level has been proven to be successful for 25 years, thanks in part to partnerships like our new one with IMA."

**About IMA®**

With a worldwide network of more than 60,000 professionals, IMA is the world's leading organization dedicated to empowering accounting and finance professionals to drive business performance. IMA provides a dynamic forum for professionals to advance their careers through Certified Management Accountant (CMA®) certification, research, professional education, networking and advocacy of the highest ethical and professional standards. For more information about IMA, please visit [www.imanet.org](http://www.imanet.org).

**About the National Academy Foundation**

The National Academy Foundation (NAF) was created as a partnership between business leaders and educators to address the need to prepare students for professional careers. NAF serves over 50,000

students in over 500 Academies in 41 states and the District of Columbia in urban schools through small learning communities. The National Academy Foundation operates three Academies: the Academy of Finance, the Academy of Hospitality & Tourism, and the Academy of Information Technology. Employees of more than 2,500 corporations are involved with local Academies, securing internships, volunteering in classrooms, acting as mentors and serving on local Advisory Boards. The NAF curriculum contains essential content based on industry and educational expertise. NAF's record of success with 90% graduation rates and more than 80% of these graduates going on to college, has garnered the support of corporations and public policy makers, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. For more information visit [www.naf.org](http://www.naf.org).

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