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**ACOM Awards Group Services Manager and San Diego State  
University Student with Industry Honors**

*Theresa Sellers and Brittanie Martinez Recognized for Achievements*

**PRINCETON JUNCTION, NJ – January 6, 2011** – The Association for Convention Operations Management (ACOM), an organization dedicated to advancing the practice of convention services management in the meetings industry, announced ACOM member and Group Services Manager at the Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, Theresa Sellers, CMP, as the recipient of the second annual William H. Just CAE, CMP Memorial Award and San Diego State University student, Brittanie Martinez, received the fourth annual Donald S. Freeman, Jr. ACOM Conference Scholarship.

The William H. Just CAE, CMP Memorial Award was established in honor of the late William Just who founded ACOM in 1988. Just also played a key role in the establishment of the Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) program. ACOM members who received their CMP certification within the last three years and remained in good standing with the association were eligible for the award. A panel of ACOM members reviewed the applications and selected the winner based on their essay which discussed how the CMP designation has been beneficial to them, why they decided to receive this certification and details on their industry and community involvement.

As the recipient of the award, Sellers will receive a complimentary registration to ACOM's Annual Conference on January 7-9, 2011 at the Westin Casuarina in Las Vegas, Nevada, which will help support her CMP status. Sellers was chosen based on her leadership and vast industry involvement.

"Individuals such as Theresa who have a passion for convention services and are committed to elevating the industry truly represent what the William H. Just CAE, CMP Memorial Award is all about," said Marilyn Healey, ACOM President. "We are proud to give this award to such a deserving professional."

Designed to support continued excellence in convention services, the Donald S. Freeman, Jr. ACOM Conference Scholarship is sponsored by Freeman, the world's leading provider of integrated services for face-to-face marketing events. The winner is selected by a panel of ACOM members based on their academic accomplishments, work experience that demonstrates a strong interest in convention services/meeting planning as a career path and an insightful essay. As the winner, Ms. Martinez will also

attend the Annual Conference where she will be involved with meeting planning functions as well as taking part in educational sessions.

“This award gives students the ability to experience first-hand the inner workings of a Conference as well as network with the top meetings professionals in the industry,” said Gary Stauffer, CEM, Director of Account Management at Freeman. “We hope Brittanie will walk away with a new outlook on the meetings industry and how she can play a role in helping it grow.”

ACOM will honor Sellers and Martinez during the Conference at the Saturday luncheon on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The Conference will feature educational sessions and dynamic speakers that will help attendees re-engage with their customers and enhance their level of service.

For more information on these awards and ACOM's Annual Conference, contact Lynn McCullough at (609) 799-3712 or e-mail [info@acomonline.org](mailto:info@acomonline.org)

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### **About ACOM**

The Association for Convention Operations Management (ACOM) celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008 and is dedicated to advancing the practice of convention services management in the meetings industry, and to preparing Convention Service Management professionals for their critical role in the growth and success of their organizations. ACOM members hold many positions in convention and visitors bureaus, convention centers, conference centers, hotels and resorts including: convention services managers, housing managers, operations managers, event service coordinators, directors of convention/tradeshows, catering managers and directors, facility managers, attraction/entertainment facilities, audio visual companies and decorator management companies. For more information, visit [www.acomonline.org](http://www.acomonline.org).

### **About Freeman**

Freeman is the industry's leading provider of integrated services for face-to-face marketing and brand building events, including expositions, conventions, corporate events, meetings and exhibits. The company is headquartered in Dallas, Texas and has 70 offices in 40 cities across North America. In 2009, Freeman produced over 3,000 expositions, including 107 of the “Tradeshaw 200” largest U.S. shows, and 10,000 corporate and special events. Founded in 1927, the company remains privately held by the Freeman family as well as the full-time employee owners through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP).