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**ACOM LAUNCHES THIRD ANNUAL STUDENT
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND NEW MEMORIAL AWARD**

New William H. Just CAE, CMP Memorial Award to Honor Deserving ACOM Member

PRINCETON JUNCTION, NJ – September 1, 2009 – Continuing its dedication to advance the professionalism of convention services management in the meetings industry, the Association for Convention Operations Management (ACOM), has launched its third annual student scholarship program, sponsored by Freeman, and its newly-established William H. Just CAE, CMP Memorial Award.

The Donald S. Freeman, Jr. ACOM Conference Scholarship will provide funding for a student studying in the hospitality management field to attend the ACOM Annual Conference on January 8-10, 2010 at the Westin Center City in Dallas, Texas. The winning student will gain a real-world perspective on the issues facing convention services managers (CSMs) today, as well as learn from educational sessions and networking opportunities with meeting professionals from across the U.S. and Canada. A representative from Freeman will also mentor the student before, during and after the Conference. The deadline for applications is November 13, 2009. A panel of ACOM members will select the winning student on December 1, 2009. The student will attend the conference on a complimentary basis; travel reimbursement is included within set parameters.

“This program continues to provide students with an educational experience, helping them connect with the industry’s top meeting professionals as well as acquire the tools and knowledge they need to excel in their future careers,” said Eric Blanc, CMP, Senior Sales Manager at Freeman and First Vice President of ACOM.

The Annual William H. Just CAE, CMP Memorial Award will recognize an ACOM member who has received their CMP certification within the last three years and remains in good standing with the association. The award was established in honor of the late William H. Just, CAE, CMP who founded ACOM in 1988. Just also played a key role in the establishment of the CMP program. ACOM members must submit an application which includes an essay on how the CMP designation has been beneficial to them, why they decided to receive this certification and details on their industry and community involvement. The deadline for applications is October 23, 2009. The winner will be selected on November 1, 2009 and will receive a complimentary registration to the Annual Conference, which helps to support their CMP status.

“Efforts such as the Scholarship program and the new Memorial Award truly illustrate ACOM’s commitment to enhancing the convention services industry and developing ways to honor our members for their hard work and dedication,” said ACOM President, Lyan Tassler.

For more information on these efforts and ACOM’s Annual Conference, contact Lynn McCullough at (609) 799-3712 or e-mail info@acomonline.org

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About ACOM

The Association for Convention Operations Management (ACOM) celebrated its 20th 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.

About Freeman

Freeman is the world’s leading provider of integrated services for face-to-face marketing events, including expositions, conventions, corporate events, and exhibits. The company is headquartered in Dallas, Texas and has offices in 41 cities across North America. In 2006, Freeman produced over 3,900 expositions, including 100 of the largest 200 U.S. trade shows, and over 10,000 other events worldwide. 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).