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Contact: Pierson Grant Public Relations
954-776-1999
Chris Feeley, ext. 237
cfeeley@piersongrant.com
Jane Grant, ext. 224
jgrant@piersongrant.com

American InterContinental University Names Martha Culbreth of Houston National “Educator of the Year”

HOUSTON – American InterContinental University (AIU), with campuses in Atlanta, Houston, London, Los Angeles, South Florida and a global internet-based campus headquartered in the Chicago area, has named Martha Culbreth from AIU Houston, Educator of the Year for 2008.

The AIU Educator of the Year Award recognizes instructors who excel in engaging students and guiding their academic studies, in their level of real-world professional experience, in providing leadership in the classroom and on the campus, and who show impeccable integrity.

“It’s an honor to be in the company of the five very talented finalists from AIU’s other campuses and I am extremely proud to have won this prestigious award,” said Culbreth, who is an instructor in the Visual Communication Department and a faculty advisor for the Student Photographic Society, a club chapter she started several years ago.

Culbreth, a native of Texas who grew up in Katy and now resides in Northwest Houston, credits her husband for steering her towards teaching after she had earned four academic degrees. “I started out as a replacement for a part-time student helper which provided me a wonderful opportunity to observe students and observe how they reacted to the instructor’s teaching techniques,” explained Culbreth. “My classroom experience also expanded my understanding of the material covered. The rest is history.”

True to AIU’s philosophy of teaching, Culbreth provides her students with real-world experience, most recently including a trip to Juneau, Alaska. Traditional college courses typically do not offer a close-up of the life cycle of the Alaskan Salmon. However, for

students in AIU Houston's Student Photographic Society, the trip included a stop at the Macaulay Hatchery, as well as the Alaskan State Museum and Mendenhall Glacier to observe the effects of global warming. Through their lenses, students saw Bald Eagles' nests the size of small trucks, an Alaskan rain forest, and the snow on Mount Roberts.

"Martha is very deserving of the award and we are grateful to have her on our faculty," said AIU Houston President Stephen Malutich. "She loves to teach and it shows in everything she does for her students and for the university. Martha's students leave AIU equipped with the right skills to pursue careers in the highly competitive visual communication field."

Culbreth, who has been an instructor at AIU for three years, also volunteers with the Professional Photographers of America (PPA) and has conducted various workshops and seminars for professional photographer organizations including the Texas Professional Photographers' Association, PPA and various other photographic artist groups. Her photographs have appeared in the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, a Houston sports publication, catalogs, and a cookbook.

"On behalf of the University Educator of the Year Selection Committee, Provost Dr. Terry Dixon, and the AIU faculty, we would like to offer our sincere congratulations to Ms. Culbreth and all of the campus finalists," said Dr. Sonia Heywood, University dean of graduate studies – Committee Chair. "Their level of professional accomplishment and academic excellence has set the standard for all others. Thank you for sharing your wealth of knowledge with our students, ensuring their success in the classroom, and equipping with them with the best tools for success in their careers and beyond."

In addition to the Visual Communication program, AIU Houston also offers business degrees at the associate, bachelor's and master's levels.

AIU Houston is located at 999 Richmond Avenue, Houston, Texas 77402. For more information contact Jo Aragon at 832-201-6896 or visit www.aiuniv.edu/houston.

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About American InterContinental University

American InterContinental University (AIU), established in Europe in 1970, awards Associate, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees in a variety of disciplines. The AIU network includes seven campuses: AIU Buckhead (Atlanta, GA); AIU Dunwoody (GA); AIU South Florida (Weston, FL); AIU Los Angeles (CA), AIU Houston (TX), AIU London (England); and AIU Online (based in Illinois). For additional information, please visit www.aiuniv.edu. AIU is a member of the Career Education Corporation (NASDAQ:CECO) network of universities, colleges, and schools.