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Conference Offers Insight into Financing Middle Market Companies in a De-Leveraged Economy

The Association for Corporate Growth Seattle Chapter to present the 4th annual Northwest Growth Financing Conference. The Northwest's premier conference for financing the growth of "middle market" companies brings together leaders from many of the nation's leading investment firms and financial institutions to provide the latest insights into recent developments and what terms, conditions, structure and valuations one can expect in a de-leveraged economy.

Seattle, WA, May 9, 2009 — Franz von Bradsky, Chairman of the Northwest Growth Financing Conference for the Seattle chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth's (ACG) announced today that the 4th annual Northwest Growth Financing Conference will be held on August 6, 2009 at the Bell Harbor International Conference Center in Seattle.

The financial landscape changed dramatically in 2008 with the takeover of Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers bankruptcy, the bailout of AIG and the forced sales of Washington Mutual, Merrill Lynch and the nationalization of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac by year's end. The crisis of confidence gripping financial markets over the past nine months has led to a dramatic reduction in the amount of credit available to finance the growth of "middle market" companies.

The conference is the largest of its kind in the Northwest and is a window to understanding how these financial shocks will impact businesses in the months ahead. It brings together leaders from many of the nation's leading investment firms and financial institutions to provide the latest insights into recent developments and what terms, conditions, structure and valuations one can expect in a de-leveraged economy.

Throughout the day, panels composed of highly experienced industry veterans will explore the financing options available to "middle market" companies today. There will be ample opportunity during the course of the day to meet, network and exchange ideas with panelists, speakers and representatives of the many investment firms and financial institutions in attendance.

The conference concludes with the Middle Market Financing Roundup which provides attendees the opportunity to go one on one with professionals from the nation's leading investment firms. Last year 40 private equity firms, subordinated debt/mezzanine firms, and business development companies representing more than \$40 billion of capital under management participated in the conference's signature event.

ACG was founded in 1954 as a forum for corporate leaders and other professionals to exchange ideas and address pertinent issues related to both internal and external corporate growth. Its mission is to foster and facilitate sound corporate growth — high quality and rising earnings as well as increased shareholder value. It is the premier global association for senior executives involved in corporate growth, corporate development, and merger and acquisition decisions.

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