

NEWS RELEASE

College of Commerce and Business Administration

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
414 Wohlers Hall, 1206 South Sixth Street
Champaign IL 61820
www.cba.uiuc.edu

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For more information contact:
Ginny Hudak-David, Director, Commerce Communications
217-244-8146; hudakdav@uiuc.edu

Office established for private equity research

Champaign, Ill. — The College of Commerce and Business Administration at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign today announced the establishment of the Office for the Study of Private Equity and Entrepreneurial Finance under the direction Michael Weisbach, I.B.E. Distinguished Professor of Finance.

The office will develop curriculum and programs to prepare young professionals to work in the private equity industry and will sponsor research to expand and enhance scholarship in the area. The office will also organize and host conferences on new advances and emerging trends in private equity. “This is the first step in what we expect to be a significant presence for our college in shaping our understanding of the private equity industry and its impact on entrepreneurial capital formation,” said Avijit Ghosh, dean of the college.

“This effort will broaden our understanding of entrepreneurship, transformational management, management incentives, corporate governance, and corporate control,” noted Weisbach, who will direct day-to-day activities and identify opportunities to engage the regional private equity industry. He is finalizing the date for the first conference that will be held in Chicago in April 2003. The conference will target practitioners and academics involved in the private equity market.

Weisbach’s research focuses on corporate financial policy. He has been funded by the National Science Foundation and has been cited numerous times in the business press. A research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, he is on the editorial boards of several journals.

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Note to editors: For detailed information about the Office for the Study of Private Equity and Entrepreneurial Finance, contact Michael Weisbach at 217-265-0258.