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**Center for Entrepreneurial Development and NCSA's Private Sector Program Launch Strategic Relationship with Speaker Series in Entrepreneurship**

Champaign, IL-- The Center for Entrepreneurial Development (CED) at the College of Business and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA) have joined forces in an effort to foster relationships between the center's Private Sector Partners (PSP) program and the local entrepreneur community.

As part of this new partnership, the CED has worked closely with the NCSA PSP to develop its 2004 Speaker Series in Entrepreneurship around NCSA's annual PSP meeting. The NCSA PSP gives Fortune 500 the chance to work with NCSA research teams and to reap the benefits of technological advances three to five years before their competition. Each year, the PSP conference brings together private sector partners and prospective partners, NCSA and university researchers, and leaders in business and IT research. Conference attendees have the chance to learn about NCSA research projects and their applications in the global economy.

Two talks that are part of this year's conference are focused on "Entrepreneurship and Technology Commercialization" and "Innovation and Entrepreneurship". Both of these topics were developed as part of the CED Speaker Series. CED stakeholders will have the opportunity to attend both these talks and to interact with NCSA researchers and private sector partners.

"This is the first of what we hope will be many more joint initiatives with NCSA and its Private Sector Program," said CED Director Dinesh Ahluwalia. "We are excited about the possibilities of this strategic relationship and the learning and networking opportunities it will provide for our students and entrepreneur stakeholders."

Mark Nolan, Director of NCSA's PSP, said the new relationship will help the center and its corporate partners understand the challenges and rewards of entrepreneurship.

"Entrepreneurship is critical to technology commercialization, and in our work with our private sector partners, commercialization and transfer of new technologies to the marketplace are always important considerations. This relationship with the CED is another way in which we can get new ideas out to the marketplace," Nolan said.

The NCSA Private Sector Partners meeting will be held April 26 - 28 at the Holiday Inn in Urbana. The entrepreneurial talks are scheduled for Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at 4.15pm and Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2004 at 10.30AM.

**About NCSA:** NCSA (National Center for Supercomputing Applications) is a national high-performance computing center that develops and deploys cutting-edge computing, networking and information technologies. Located at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, NCSA is funded by the National Science Foundation. Additional support comes from the state of Illinois, the University of Illinois, private sector partners and other federal agencies. For more information, see <http://www.ncsa.uiuc.edu/>.

**About the Center for Entrepreneurial Development (CED) at the College of Business:** The Center for Entrepreneurial Development was established in 2002 to serve as a focal point and to coordinate the various entrepreneurial initiatives of the College of Business at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. For more information please visit <http://ced.business.uiuc.edu>

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