

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bill Benson Appointed to the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce Board

GRAND RAPIDS, MI. May 8, 2006—The Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce recently appointed Bill Benson as Board Director for the 2006 term. Benson, partner and co-founder of *WilliamCharles Executive Search* and its subsidiary, *Financial Edge Executive Resources* has been actively involved in the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce for 15 years, and has served as Chair of The Chamber Open (formerly the Briefcase Open) for the past four years.

Benson, partner and co-founder of *WilliamCharles Executive Search* and its subsidiary, *Financial Edge Executive Resources* has more than 26 years of recruiting and finance experience. Prior to forming WilliamCharles Executive Search and Financial Edge Executive Resources in 2001 with partner, Chuck Smeester, Benson served as senior manager for a large, international recruiting firm where he managed four regional offices in Michigan. In 2005, Benson and Smeester partnered with Steve Crandall to form Crandall/Partners, a West Michigan-based organization that specializes in providing human resource leadership and human resource management solutions.

WilliamCharles Executive Search is a Grand Rapids-based executive search company with two additional offices in New York. WilliamCharles Executive Search provides retained and contingency personnel placement services to businesses regardless of geography, and specializes in placing executive-level talent such as President and Chief Executive Officer in addition to senior and mid-level professionals in disciplines ranging from human resources, legal, operations, and sales/marketing. The firm also places executive assistants and administrative managers. Through their subsidiary, Financial

Edge Executive Resources, they deliver qualified accounting and financial candidates on both a permanent and project basis.

Benson frequently speaks at financial industry trade association meetings about career management, employability and job search skills. He serves as a resource for business associations and industry leaders in the areas of hiring environments, employment opportunities, and job market trends.

Benson received a Bachelor of Science in Business (BSB) degree with a specialization in accounting from the University of Minnesota. Benson is a member of the Michigan Banker's Association. In addition to serving on the Board with the Grand Rapids Area Chamber of Commerce, Benson serves on an advisory board at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and serves as Chair of The National Personnel Associates' (NPA) accounting, banking and finance specialty recruitment group, *FinanceNet*.