

For Immediate Release

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MATTHEW OKEBIYI TO BE HONORED AT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS EVENT

Top "40-Under-Forty" Selected By Black Business Magazine As The Region's Finest Young Achievers

New York, NY, May 16, 2002 - *The Network Journal* (TNJ), a New York City-based magazine that focuses on African-American professionals and small business news has completed selections for its year 2002 top achievers who will be honored at the fifth annual "40-Under-Forty" Awards Program. Included among the honorees is **Matthew Okebiyi, Founder and Executive Director of the African American Planning Commission Inc.** located in Brooklyn, NY. The semi-formal event will be held on Thursday, June 13th at Columbia University located at 2920 Broadway (at 116th Street) in New York City from 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$85 if purchased by June 7 and \$100 thereafter, should there be any available at the door as the program sells out each year.

The recognition event is a one of a kind in the area and profiles 40 individuals, all under the age of 40, who have achieved significant levels of success and made substantial contributions in their careers and to their communities. The 40 achievers will also be profiled in the special June issue of the magazine.

The official list of honorees represents an influential roster of African American entrepreneurs and business persons from around the region and includes: **Tracey A. Adams**, Vice President Community Investment Group at FleetBoston Financial; **Seni M. Adlo, Esq.**, Partner Litigation Section at Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo, P.C.; **Jean V. Archer, DPM, Podiatrist** at Jean Archer D.P.M., P.C.; **Xavier Artis, CEO** at Players Govern Players Inc.; **Kenetta I. Bailey**, Vice President Strategic Marketing at BMG Entertainment; **Wilfredo Benitez, Esq.**, Principal Officer/Partner at Wilfredo Benitez, L.L.C.; **Edison Bond, Jr.**, Director of Patient Relations University Hospital of Brooklyn at SUNY Downstate Medical Center University Hospital; **Anthony R. Brooks**, Custodian Account Executive at Omega (DTCC/Thomas Financial Company); **Monique R. Brown**, Senior Editor at Black Enterprise Magazine; **Pamela Brown-Peterside, Ph.D., MPH**, Research Scientist in the Laboratory of Epidemiology at the NY Blood Center; **Richard E. Clark**, Vice President of Investor Relations at The Reader's Digest Association Inc.; **Alicia Clay, Ph.D.**, Information Security Outreach Program Manager for the Information Technology Laboratory at National Institute of Standards and Technology; **Earl Cox**, National Accounts Manager at John Wiley & Sons Inc.; **Darroll Cypress**, Managing Consultant at The Extraprise Group; **Kellye Davis**, CEO/Lifestyle Correspondent at Inside You Multimedia International; **Stacey H. Davis**, President/CEO at the Fannie Mae Foundation; **Candace S. Floyd**, Executive Vice President at Aaron B. Floyd Enterprises Inc.; **Frelida D. Foster**, Assistant to the Governor for African American Affairs at the Office of New York State Governor George Pataki; **Terri J. Fowlkes**, Subordinated Debt Program Manager at NY Community Investment Company L.L.C.; **Crystal D. Frazier**, Director of Supplier Diversity at TIAA-CREF; **Shano' Harris**, Director at the New Jersey Nets & Devils Foundation; **Bradford Hobbs**, Director of Corporate Marketing at IBM Corporate Brand Strategy; **Leslie D. Jones, CPA**, National Director for Ethnicity Diversity Initiatives at Ernst & Young LLP; **Sade' Lythcott**, Associate Producer for Total Request Live at MTV Network; **Erica Mays**, President of Erica Mays New York; **Matthew J. Middleton, Esq.**, Managing Partner at Woods & Middleton LLP; **Clinton M. Miller, M. Div.**, Pastor of Brown Memorial Baptist Church; **Matthew Okebiyi**, Founder and Executive Director at the African American Planning Commission Inc.; **Chandra M. Ortiz, Esq.**, Principal at The Law Office of Chandra M. Ortiz, P.C.; **Cheryl Overton**, SVP, Group Director Consumer Marketing at Ogilvy PR Worldwide; **Alfonzo Porter**, President/CEO at Porter Education & Communications Inc.; **Jacqueline Rosa**, Vice President Global Diversity and Work Life Programs at Morgan Stanley; **Earl G. Simons**, Director at Northern Manhattan Office for the Manhattan Borough President's Office; **Kenneth A. Smaltz**, Owner of K. Smaltz Inc.; **Michael E. Smith**, President/CEO at Wintoncliff Protective Services Inc.; **Lisa M. Stenson, Esq.**, Vice President and Corporate Counsel at Prudential Insurance Company of America and **Pauline Thomas, Esq.**, Vice President and Claim Consultant at MARSH and **Tyrone H. Walker, M.D.**, a Physician In at Long Island College Hospital, **Tyrone H. Walker, M.D.**, Physician at Long Island College Hospital and **Ronda Williams**, Vice President Corporate Relations at Idamar Enterprises and **Edward L. Woods, Esq.**, Senior Partner at Woods & Middleton LLP.

The Network Journal is located in New York City's financial district and was one of the first African American publications to establish a Web site presence (www.tnj.com). The magazine is read by over 55,000 business owners and professionals. Recognition awards received by *The Network Journal* include citations from the U.S. Small Business Administration, the National Minority Business Council and the Caribbean-American Chamber of Commerce and Industry. In addition, *The Network Journal* has been featured in a variety of publications for its service to the African American business community. For tickets to the fifth annual 40-Under-Forty Achievement Awards event please call (212) 962-9448. Sponsors include FGV Video, WBLSWLIB Radio and *The Network Journal*. Editor's note: Interviews available.

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