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BLACKWELL BECOMES CANDIDATE MEMBER OF CCIM INSTITUTE

HONOLULU (July 17, 2006) -- Sakara K. Blackwell, President & Principal Broker of Optimum Realty LLC in Honolulu, has become a candidate member of the CCIM Institute. Blackwell is pursuing the Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) designation conferred by the organization.

The CCIM designation is awarded upon completion of a graduate-level curriculum and attainment of a level of qualifying experience. CCIMs are recognized experts in commercial real estate brokerage, leasing, asset management, valuation, and investment analysis, and form a business network encompassing 1,000 markets throughout North America. Of the estimated 125,000 commercial real estate practitioners in North America, only 7,000 currently hold the CCIM designation. An additional 6,000 are pursuing the designation as candidate members.

The Chicago-based CCIM Institute is an affiliate of the National Association of Realtors.

What is a CCIM?

A Certified Commercial Investment Member (CCIM) is a recognized expert in the disciplines of commercial and investment real estate. A CCIM is an invaluable resource to the commercial real estate owner, investor, and user, and is among an elite corps of 7,500 professionals across North America who hold the CCIM designation.

Recognized for its preeminence within the industry, the CCIM curriculum represents the core knowledge expected of commercial investment practitioners, regardless of the diversity of specializations within the industry. The CCIM curriculum consists of four core courses that incorporate the essential CCIM skill sets: financial analysis, market analysis, user decision analysis, and investment analysis for commercial investment real estate. Additional curriculum requirements may be completed through CCIM elective courses, transfer credit for graduate education or professional recognition, and qualifying non-CCIM education. Following the course work, candidates must submit a resume of closed transactions and/or consultations showing a depth of experience in the commercial investment field. After fulfilling these requirements, candidates must successfully complete a comprehensive examination to earn the CCIM designation. This designation process ensures that CCIMs are proficient not only in theory, but also in practice.

Only 6 percent of the estimated 125,000 commercial real estate practitioners nationwide hold the CCIM designation, which reflects not only the caliber of the program, but also why it is one of the most coveted and respected designations in the industry. The CCIM membership network mirrors the increasingly changing nature of the industry and includes brokers, leasing professionals, investment counselors, asset managers, appraisers, corporate real estate executives, property managers, developers, institutional investors, commercial lenders, attorneys, bankers and other allied professionals.

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