

**July 22, 2003**

## **National Mediation Board Establishes Academic Partnership with The W. J. Uesery Center for the Workplace at Georgia State University**

ATLANTA – The National Mediation Board (NMB) and The W. J. Uesery Center for the Workplace at Georgia State University announced their new academic partnership at The Commerce Club in Atlanta, Tuesday evening.

As local, state and national dignitaries attended in support, NMB Chairman Edward Fitzmaurice and NMB members Francis Duggan and Harry Hoglander joined with Former Secretary of Labor W. J. Uesery, Georgia State University President Dr. Carl V. Patton, and incoming Executive Director of The W. J. Uesery Center Richard Barnes in pledging to assist each other. W. J. Uesery confirmed that a vital part of the Center's mission is the development and presentation of research, educational and training programs pertaining to employment relations and dispute resolution in the railway and airline industries.

“There is an urgent and growing need for stronger, more positive working relationships between labor and management to foster economic development, job security, workplace communication and organizational effectiveness,” said Executive Director Richard Barnes.

NMB Chairman Edward Fitzmaurice added his agreement. “By working together we can utilize the tremendous experience of the NMB and the Uesery Center to further refine and adapt systems to improve conflict management and resolution,” Fitzmaurice explained.

“Together, our organizations will share a one-of-a-kind, time-proven resource pool of expert trainers, presenters, arbitrators, negotiators and educators,” Fitzmaurice noted.

“We will be able to promote research and improve solutions for future workforces by

studying historical labor and conflict resolution archives. Whenever possible, the NMB will also use its staff to bring today's labor situations into Georgia State University classes through The Usery Center.”

Training topics currently under consideration extend beyond what many trainers may consider customary labor management training. Programs in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Systems, Conflict Management and Resolution, Arbitration, Ethics, Law and other topics will be offered and will provide continuing education credits. These courses will offer additional resources and methods for expanding and strengthening labor–management relationships in order to improve communications, resolve disputes and prevent difficult workplace situations.

**The W. J. Usery, Center for the Workplace:** The Usery Center assists organizations in finding innovative solutions to current workplace problems and issues. While focusing on business and industry in general, the center also provides services that include conciliation, mediation, arbitration, research and academic instruction as part of an on-going effort to influence and shape tomorrow's workplace. The Usery Center is one of the nation's premier providers of workplace and workforce development research, training, consulting and conflict resolution services. To inquire about The Usery Center's Services, please contact the Executive Director of The Usery Center, Richard Barnes at (404) 651-1272.

**The National Mediation Board (NMB):** The NMB is an independent executive agency of the United States Government with a three-member Board appointed by the President. The NMB enforces the Railway Labor Act which provides a comprehensive statutory framework to promote harmonious labor relations and to effectuate the resolution of labor-management disputes in the railroad and airline industries. The NMB provides integrated dispute

resolution processes, including alternative dispute resolution training and facilitation, to effectively meet the statutory objectives of assisting the parties in the resolution of disputes and avoiding any interruption in service.