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**ACTiVATE PROGRAM NAMED AS FINALIST IN
3RD ANNUAL STEVIE® AWARDS FOR WOMEN IN BUSINESS**

Innovative Baltimore Program Receives National Recognition

BALTIMORE, MD (January 10, 2007) – The UMBC ACTiVATE program was named a finalist today in the “Women Helping Women” category in the third annual Stevie Awards for Women in Business. The program’s entry, “Empowering Women into High-Tech Entrepreneurship” was chosen for recognition from the more than 600 entries submitted across 40 categories. The winner will be announced at an awards ceremony in New York City in early March.

The Stevie Awards for Women in Business honor women executives, entrepreneurs, and the companies they run – worldwide. The Stevie Awards have been hailed as “the business world’s own Oscars” by the *New York Post* (April 27, 2005).

The UMBC ACTiVATE program is an innovative, year-long program sponsored by a grant from the National Science Foundation to train women to become technology entrepreneurs.

“The mission of the ACTiVATE program, which is empowering women in entrepreneurship, is in perfect synch with the purpose of these awards,” said Julie Lenzer Kirk, the program’s lead instructor. “We have exceeded our 3-year goal for the number of new technology start-up companies midway through our second year. We are confident that we will continue that trend.”

Finalists were chosen by business professionals worldwide during preliminary judging. Members of the Awards' Board of Distinguished Judges & Advisors and their staff select Stevie Award winners from the finalists during final judging.

“Being named a finalist in the Stevie Awards for Women in Business is an important achievement,” said Michael Gallagher, president of the Stevie Awards. “It means that independent business executives have agreed that the nominee is worthy of recognition. We congratulate all of the finalists on their achievement and wish them well in the competition.”

Details about the Stevie Awards for Women in Business and the list of finalists in all categories are available at www.stevieawards.com/women.

About ACTiVATE

University of Maryland, Baltimore County's (UMBC) ACTiVATE* is a year-long program to train women with significant technical or business experience to be entrepreneurs and to create start-up companies from inventions from Maryland research institutions and federal agencies. It is funded by the National Science Foundation. Admission to the program is competitive. For additional information about the ACTiVATE program, please see www.umbc.edu/activate.

*ACTiVATE – Achieving the Commercialization of Technology in Ventures through Applied Training for Entrepreneurs

About The Stevie Awards

Hailed as “the business world’s own Oscars” by the New York Post (April 27, 2005), Stevie Awards are conferred in four programs: The American Business Awards, the International Business Awards, the Stevie Awards for Women in Business, and the Selling Power Sales Excellence Awards. Honoring companies of all types and sizes and the people behind them, the Stevies recognize outstanding performances in the workplace worldwide. Learn more about the Stevie Awards at www.stevieawards.com.

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