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Winners Revealed at Third Annual Leadership Character Awards Turknett Leadership Group recognizes individuals from MATRIX, BellSouth, EarthLink, UPS, Girl Scout Council and the InfoMentis organization

ATLANTA, GA (February 2006)—Turknett Leadership Group, whose work with leaders and organizations is centered on developing leadership at all levels, announced the winners of the Third Annual Leadership Character Awards at a luncheon event held February 6, 2006 at the Grand Hyatt in Buckhead.

“Turknett Leadership Group and Kennesaw State University were proud to acknowledge the many positive business role models and leaders nominated,” said Bob Turknett, CEO and co-founder of Turknett Leadership Group. “We are especially proud of the six winners who model leadership character every day.”

More than 350 of Atlanta’s top business leaders gathered to recognize this year’s individual and organization winners, each chosen for best exemplifying the standards set forth in the Turknett Leadership Character Model. The winners are listed as follows:

- **CEO/Pres./Partner Category** **Jim Huling, MATRIX Resources, Inc.**
- **Executive/Manager Category** **Valencia I. Adams, BellSouth Corp.**
- **Executive/Manager Category** **Ken Uhlig, EarthLink**
- **Associate Category** **Vic Kimble, UPS**
- **Non-Profit/Education Category** **Harriet Hessam, Girl Scout Council, NW GA**
- **Organization Category** **InfoMentis**

Long known in the Southeast for its work with executives and organizations in the areas of integrity and character, Atlanta-based Turknett Leadership Group paired along with Kennesaw State University's RTM Institute for Leadership, Ethics and Character for the second year. The nominated organizations were recognized for having unquestioned integrity, for treating their customers, suppliers and each other with respect, and for maintaining a culture in which everyone takes responsibility for achieving results and upholding their core values.

Valencia Adams, BellSouth Corp. remarked after the event, "It is such an honor to be recognized for serving others through leadership. I am grateful for the opportunities BellSouth has afforded me in that I am able to work with wonderful people who themselves demonstrate great character everyday."

“Receiving this award is an incredible honor, as the award was presented to InfoMentis based on the integrity, respect, responsibility and character we demonstrate as an organization to our prospects, our clients and each other,” commented Wendy Reed, CEO of InfoMentis.

Harriet Hessam, CEO of the Girl Scout Council of Northwest Georgia reflected, “I represent an organization whose mission is to ‘build girls of courage, confidence, and character,’ so it is particularly gratifying to be recognized for modeling integrity and character in the workplace.”

“I would like to thank the Turknett Leadership Group and Kennesaw State University for highlighting the importance of Leadership Character in all facets of our life today,” said Ken Uhlig, CPO at EarthLink.

“We live in challenging times and we greatly need leaders to navigate people through change and provide them with the environment and opportunity to maximize their potential”

Several nominations for this year’s awards focused on acts of character as they related to the Hurricane Katrina disaster. Veteran restaurateur Ron Wolf, currently executive director of the Georgia Restaurant Association, was nominated for his statewide endeavor to support the Katrina disaster victims by organizing restaurant members to donate 15 percent of sales in one evening. Nearly 600 Georgia restaurants participated and approximately \$50,000 was raised.

***Turknett Leadership Group** is a character-based management and consulting firm in Atlanta, Georgia that focuses on aligning strategy, leadership and culture by providing services in the areas of Executive Development, Selection & Integration; Succession Planning; Team Assessment and Development; Ethics, Retention & Culture Consulting.*

***The RTM Institute for Leadership, Ethics & Character**, an academically based institute at Kennesaw State University, seeks to inspire, enable and promote ethical conduct, decision-making and leadership for the common good.*