



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SAN DIEGO STUDENT NAMED FIRST RECIPIENT OF THE  
DONALD S. FREEMAN, JR. ACOM CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP**

*“Supporting Continued Excellence in Convention Services”*

**PRINCETON JUNCTION, NJ – January 7, 2008** – The Association for Convention Operations Management (ACOM), an organization dedicated to advancing the practice of convention services management in the meetings industry, has awarded San Diego State University student, Whitney Johnson, with a scholarship to attend ACOM’s 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference on January 11-13, 2008 at the Westin Seattle.

The scholarship program sponsored by Freeman, North America’s leading service contractor, is in its inaugural year. Johnson, a Hospitality & Tourism Management Major and an intern at Town & Country Resort Hotel and Convention Center, was selected by a panel of ACOM members out of a pool of applicants from a diverse range of geographic locations, including Michigan, Las Vegas, Kansas City, Indianapolis and Washington, D.C. Criteria such as grade point average, work experience that demonstrates a strong interest in convention services/meeting planning as a career path and an insightful essay determined the panel’s decision.

Johnson will gain a real-world perspective on the issues facing convention services managers (CSMs) today, as well as learn from conference sessions and networking opportunities with members from across the U.S. and Canada. Additionally, representatives from Freeman will mentor the student before, during and after the conference.

“The ACOM board, members and staff are looking forward to providing Whitney with a great conference experience and valuable real-world knowledge,” said out-going 2007 ACOM president, Norman Ford.

Eric Blanc, CMP, national sales manager at Freeman and current board member of ACOM, said, “Whitney stood out as an enthusiastic future meetings professional. We

look forward to the opportunity to introduce her to the hospitality and event management profession and will help her learn from the experience any way we can.”

For more information about ACOM and the upcoming conference, contact Lynn McCullough at (609) 799-3712 or e-mail [info@acomonline.org](mailto:info@acomonline.org).

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### **About ACOM**

The Association for Convention Operations Management (ACOM) is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008 and is dedicated to advancing the practice of convention services management in the meetings industry, and to preparing Convention Service Management professionals for their critical role in the growth and success of their organizations. ACOM members hold many positions in convention and visitor bureaus, convention centers, conference centers, hotels and resorts including: convention service managers, housing managers, operations managers, event service coordinators, directors of convention/trade shows, catering managers and directors, facility managers, attraction/entertainment facilities, audio visual companies and decorator management companies. For more information, visit [www.acomonline.org](http://www.acomonline.org).

### **About Freeman**

Freeman is the world's leading provider of integrated services for face-to-face marketing events, including expositions, conventions, corporate events, and exhibits. The company is headquartered in Dallas, Texas and has offices in 41 cities across North America. In 2006, Freeman produced over 3,900 expositions, including 100 of the largest 200 U.S. trade shows, and over 10,000 other events worldwide. Founded in 1927, the company remains privately held by the Freeman family as well as the full-time employee owners through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP).