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### **Local CPA earns exclusive “Accredited in Business Valuation” (ABV) credential as Valuation Expert**

**Tampa Bay/St Petersburg, Florida, April 15, 2010** – **Linda M. O’Rourke**, a CPA valuation expert and principal of **O’Rourke and Associates** located in Clearwater, FL has recently been awarded the ABV Credential by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). The ABV Credential, established in 1998 by the AICPA, is granted to qualified CPA’s with considerable professional experience in business valuation.

**O’Rourke** met the requirements to earn the ABV credential, which include passing a rigorous exam, demonstrating significant business experience in the area of business valuation methodology and completing the education requirements in the area of valuation. The ABV Credential is granted exclusively to CPAs who are members in good standing of the AICPA which binds them to the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct.

O’Rourke’s areas of specialization include business valuation, financial analysis and advisory services relating to: management planning, gift and estate tax, succession planning, employee stock option plans, financial reporting compliance and financing purposes. She has worked for a national valuation firm and has prepared over 100 business valuations in various industries.

O’Rourke has more than 20 years of experience and worked in both public and corporate accounting. She specialized in tax, audit and operations. During her public accounting years she worked for PricewaterhouseCoopers and smaller regional firms. After earning her CPA and enhancing it with a MBA O’Rourke transitioned into a more corporate environment. She learned and applied best practices across a wide range of functional areas in multiple business disciplines.

O’Rourke’s corporate career consisted of several senior level positions. She was the controller of North, South and Central America for a global telecommunications company with over sixty five million dollars in revenue. During her tenure, she was instrumental in leading an asset recovery initiative for the New York based company in the wake of the 9/11 disaster. She also led the finance team for an internet start up, enabling the company to attract financing to reach their goals. In addition, her work with a Fortune 500 company in consumer product goods gave her exposure to manufacturing and retail.

Most recently, O’Rourke founded her own firm, **O’Rourke and Associates**. The firm offers a suite of services including but not limited to: Business Valuation, Financial Statement Preparation & Review, Financial Planning & Budgeting, Accounting Services, Cash Flow & Working Capital Maximization, Preemptive Tax Planning, Succession Planning, Preparing/Maximizing/ Loan Applications and Software Support.

“We offer a suite of valuation, financial and accounting services,” O’Rourke said. “Every business we have worked with is now running more profitably and efficiently. We specialize in helping small to midsize businesses to develop, clarify and reach their financial and operational objectives.”

“There has never been a better time for us to apply our suite of services on behalf of the business owner dealing with today’s economic challenges.”