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**College of Business at USF St. Petersburg Maintains Prestigious International Accreditation**

**(St. Petersburg, Fla.) Dec. 18, 2007** — The University of South Florida St. Petersburg’s College of Business has achieved maintenance of accreditation for its business and accounting degree programs from the AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

AACSB International is the premier global accrediting body for business schools offering undergraduate, masters and doctoral degrees. Less than 10 percent of business school programs worldwide meet the rigorous standards for AACSB accreditation. The College’s Program of Accountancy has an additional separate accreditation from the group, making it a part of an even more elite group of schools with the designation.

“The accreditation for the College of Business at USF St. Petersburg is further evidence of the high standards and quality in the USF system,” said USF President Judy Genshaft. “I’m delighted to congratulate Dean Geralyn McClure Franklin, the faculty, staff and students on this achievement.”

Schools earn the designation after a meticulous internal review during which schools meet 21 AACSB business standards and an additional 15 accounting standards. Maintenance of review occurs every five years for accredited institutions.

“AACSB International accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools,” said Dean Geralyn Franklin. “By seeking and achieving this hallmark of management education accreditation, our faculty and staff have confirmed their commitment to quality and continuous improvement that will benefit our students, those that employ our graduates, and our community.”

Founded in 1916 by a consortium of 17 business schools, AACSB International is also the business education community’s professional development organization.

**-USF St. Petersburg-**