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# NEWS RELEASE

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## ***HOUSTON REGION GARNERS NATIONAL RECOGNITION BUSINESS, QUALITY OF LIFE ASSETS LAUDED***

*HOUSTON* – Organizations ranging from *Business Week* to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics are lauding metropolitan Houston for its economic leadership and openness to both commerce and visitors.

“This region is very pro-business and pro-opportunity, and people outside this market are taking note,” said Greater Houston Partnership President and CEO Jeff Moseley. “As a leading business hub in Texas and around the nation, the Houston region is focused on developing economic ties around the world. We also are investing in our future by helping to create a superior quality of life.”

Accolades have noted the area’s job growth rate, quality of life, entrepreneurial opportunities and openness to a diverse population.

Recent recognitions include:

- **Houston region leads job growth** – The Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown area’s 3.1 percent job growth rate from June 2006 to June 2007 placed it as the fastest growing of the 12 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) in the nation, according to figures released earlier this month by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Houston’s growth was more than twice the national rate of 1.4 percent. During this period, the metro area gained 76,500 jobs, while only two other MSAs – Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington and New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island - gained more than 50,000 jobs as well.



- **Houston’s Diverse Population** – The Miami-based *Hispanic* magazine ranked Houston in its annual “Top 10 Cities for Hispanics in the Nation” issue. Houston garnered excellent marks in four out of the seven categories studied, including top marks in cost of living, population, housing costs and schools. The magazine hit newsstands last week. Earlier this year, *Black Enterprise* placed Houston among its elite “Top 10 Cities for African Americans.” The region garnered attention for its excellent quality of life; favorable cost of living index; and number of African-American owned businesses.
- **Entrepreneur Hotbed** – In June, *Business Week* lauded Houston as an excellent place for small businesses to locate and grow. Already ranked eighth in the nation by the same publication as one of the best places for entrepreneurs, the Houston region led the country with the most companies listed on this year’s “Hot Growth Companies 2007,” with eight regional companies making the grade.
- **Poised for 21st Century Greatness** – Also in June, the Houston region drew rave reviews when celebrated author and urban historian Joel Kotkin released his latest study, “Opportunity Urbanism: An Emerging Paradigm for the 21st century.” The study places the region at the forefront of 21st century world-class cities based upon the area’s ability to create jobs, maintain continuous massive infrastructure investments, offer affordable housing and present entrepreneurial openings to a growing and highly diverse population.

In addition to the region’s prominence as a business location and place to live, the area garnered recent notice as a leisure destination.

- **A visitor’s paradise** – *ForbesTraveler.com* ranked Houston as the ninth most-visited city in the U.S. According to *ForbesTraveler.com*, “Texas cities dominate the *Forbes Traveler’s* 30 Most Visited U.S. Cities list, and Houston is the king of the hill among the state’s urban travel meccas. Its 31 million annual visitors include a million convention guests as well as tourists touching down at the Space Center, Moody Gardens, and other attractions. In 2005, six and a half million of Houston’s visitors came from Mexico.”

“The region has made a concerted effort to diversify our economy and to become a place where businesses can grow and people can prosper,” Moseley said. “These recent accolades show that the greater Houston region is a great place to work, live and thrive.”

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