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Seasoned Leaders. Trusted Advisers.

June 29, 2006

## Team of Top-Tier Nashville Business Leaders Launches Compass Executives

*Seasoned Executives Form New Advisory Firm to Share Experience, Guidance with Leaders and Businesses*

**Nashville, TN** – An unprecedented partnership comprising some of the most highly regarded and experienced business leaders in Middle Tennessee today announced the formation of Compass Executives, LLC, a firm that will provide leadership mentoring and management advisory services to businesses throughout the southeast, according to managing partner and former president and CEO of Rogers Group, Inc., **Don Williamson**.

Williamson will serve as managing partner together with **Jerry Kiefer**, former chief of human resources of National Life and American General and vice president of human resources for the Rogers Group, Inc, and **Art Rebrovick**, former President and CEO of Cutters Exchange and founding principal of NMG Advisers, Inc.

“This firm is one of the first of its kind in the nation,” said Williamson who is formerly the CEO of Rogers Group. “We are a team of individuals who simply love business. We’ve been in the shoes of our clients and have experienced and overcome, first-hand, the challenges that many organizations face today.”

In addition to the managing partners, Compass Executives include:

- **Harold Fogelberg**, former executive vice president of AmSouth/First American Bank.
- **Marc Fortune**, former owner and current CEO of Century II Staffing.
- **Tony Heard**, former regional chairman of US Bank and current head of financial services at NMG Advisers, Inc.
- **Don Hillenmeyer**, entrepreneur who has helped start over 20 technology and telecommunication companies, including Sparkplug Broadband, SkillSearch Corporation and Cellular One.
- **Henry Hillenmeyer**, former chairman and CEO of Southern Hospitality and Cooker Restaurant Corporation.
- **Mary Huston McLendon**, former owner and CEO of Centre for Health Care Planning.
- **Warren McPherson**, former neurosurgeon and chairman of State Volunteer Mutual Insurance Company.
- **Barbara Cannon Wall**, former president and CEO of Celeris Corporation.
- **Rich Warden**, former executive vice president and COO of Rogers Group.



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Compass Executives, LLC is affiliated with NMG Advisers, Inc.



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Unlike typical consulting firms, Compass Executives' partners each has previously owned or managed his or her own business or performed as a C-Level (Chief Executive Officer, Chief Operating Officer or Chief Information Officer) executive in a public or private company. In forming Compass Executives, these advisers have pooled their extensive backgrounds in myriad corporate arenas for the purpose of providing crucial leadership services to other leaders.

"From banking to biotech to hospitality, each of our executives has made their mark on a different industry," said Kiefer. "Our team was formed with this diversity in mind. Not only will the breadth of industry experience benefit our clients, but this also strengthens our team internally as our advisers can share strategies and new ideas that could translate from industry to industry."

Compass Executives will provide the following distinct services:

- **Leadership mentoring** – guiding management through difficult periods for the company or serving as a mentor for personal development;
- **Skill-discipline coaching** – providing focused coaching to help improve specific disciplines such as strategic planning, acquisition, divestment, technology, financial management and human resources;
- **Interim executive** – filling a position too critical to be left vacant, thereby helping a business run effectively during a transition; and
- **Board member** – serving on a private company's board, guiding the development of a new or expanded board or helping refocus and re-energize a board impacted by today's changing environment.

Compass Executives, LLC is affiliated with NMG Advisers, Inc., a Nashville-based business consulting firm. Williamson said Compass Executives was formed in response to a demand NMG Advisers saw in the market.

"NMG Advisers has met and worked with hundreds of companies throughout the Southeast, and often encountered clients who really needed mentoring more than classic business consulting," said Rebrovick. "In other cases, businesses have needed an interim executive to fill in for four months. Both of these needs were not being met by any firms in the region. We saw this as a perfect opportunity to launch Compass Executives."

Compass Executives plans to offer its services primarily in the southeast initially, with plans to expand the firm into other regions of the country in the future.

### **About Compass Executives**

Compass Executives is a Nashville-based group of seasoned, C-Level executives providing management advisory services to businesses throughout the southeast. For more information, visit [www.compassexecutives.com](http://www.compassexecutives.com).



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