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### **CONTACT:**

Steve Bakke

PDI World Group LLC

Phone: 612-870-9200

Fax: 612-870-9203

[sbakke@pdiworldgroup.com](mailto:sbakke@pdiworldgroup.com)

[www.pdiworldgroup.com](http://www.pdiworldgroup.com)

## **Noted Architect Steve Huh to Receive Ellis Island Medal of Honor**

**Minneapolis, MN, April 4, 2008** – Stephen S. Huh, FAIA, noted local architect and Chairman and CEO of PDI World Group, will receive the Ellis Island Medal of Honor from the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO) on May 10, 2008 at a high-profile ceremony in New York City.

The National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations serves as an umbrella for over 250 organizations that celebrate, educate and nurture ethnic pride, heritage, culture, tradition and commerce. NECO's mission is to honor and preserve diversity as well as foster tolerance, respect and understanding among religious and ethnic groups.

Additionally, NECO is committed to the restoration and maintenance of Ellis Island, a living tribute to the courage and hope of all immigrants who have built America. The Ellis Island Medals of Honor are presented annually to American citizens of diverse origins for their outstanding contributions to their own ethnic groups, their ancestral countries and to the United States.

Established in 1986 by NECO, the Ellis Island Medals of Honor pay tribute to the ancestry groups that comprise America's unique cultural mosaic. Past medalists include six U.S. presidents as well as Nobel Prize winners and leaders of industry, education, arts, sports and government.

Among other criteria, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor is awarded to individuals who exemplify a life dedicated to community service, contribute distinguished service to humanity and share their personal and professional gifts with the local, national or international community.

Mr. Huh was born in Korea and received his Bachelor of Science in Architecture degree from Han-Yang University in Seoul, then came to the University of Minnesota. He received his Master's Degree and began working for The Leonard Parker Associates in Minneapolis in 1972, and has been here ever since.

He had this to say about the Medal of Honor: "I am extremely honored to receive this award, especially since the award's criteria are as much about my personal contributions as they are about my professional achievements. And I am humbled by the company this puts me in."

Steve Huh was only the third Korean-born architect named to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Architects (FAIA) in 1995, and has subsequently served as a jury member on the AIA Honorary Fellows selection committee. He was the recipient of the Asian Pacific Leadership Award in 1997 and the American Business Advisory Council Gold Medal in 2003. He is one of the initial group

of 28 individuals designated as a leading CEO by the Korean government's World Business Leaders organization.

He is currently an adjunct Professor at the University of Hawaii and at Han Yang University in Korea, and he has served on the Advisory Committee, the Program Evaluation Team, and Technical Olympic Jury at Hennepin Technical College in Minnesota.

Mr. Huh has participated in Minnesota trade missions to Korea and China with three different Governors, and he accompanied former President Bill Clinton on a trip to Seoul in 2005.

Within his own community, Steve has served as President and Chairman of the Board of both the Minnesota Korean Association and Korean Chamber of Commerce. He was a founding member of the Korean Institute of Minnesota, a Director of the Minnesota Academic Foundation Board, and an Advisor to the University of Minnesota, Concordia University Language Villages, the Minnesota Trade Office, and a Small Business Committee chaired by Minnesota Congressman Jim Ramstad.

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