

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## NATIONAL TRUST ANNOUNCES 11 GRADUATE FROM MAIN STREET CERTIFICATION INSTITUTE

Washington, DC (May 19, 2008) – The National Trust for Historic Preservation recognized this year’s graduates from its Institute for Certification in Professional Main Street™ Management in front of 1,600 of their peers during the opening session of the National Main Streets Conference in Philadelphia on March 31.

The 11 graduates were recognized for their exceptional aptitude in applying the Main Street Four-Point Approach, a historic preservation-based economic development methodology. Designation as a Certified Main Street Manager is the highest certification level for this growing professional specialty within the broader economic development industry.

“The Certification Institute recognizes Main Street practitioners who have demonstrated a high level of understanding and application of the Main Street Four-Point Approach™,” says Doug Loescher, director of the National Trust Main Street Center. “This class’ ability to execute successful revitalization efforts has raised the bar for professionalism and ability in this field.” Graduates must pass entrance exams; attend two, week-long intense training within a two-year period; and pass four exams.

The following 2008 Certification Institute graduates who now have their Certified Main Street Manager (CMSM) credentials are:

- **Connie Burd, CMSM**, Waynesburg Prosperous and Beautiful, Waynesburg, PA
- **Nolan Crowley, CMSM**, Okmulgee Main Street, Inc., Okmulgee, OK
- **Richard Cunningham, CMSM**, Thoma Development Consultants, Cortland, NY
- **Lorraine Dion, CMSM**, Middletown Main Street, Inc., Middletown, DE
- **Christine Gardner, CMSM**, Washington Business District Authority, Washington, PA
- **Richard Groves, CMSM**, Historic Downtown Liberty, Inc., Liberty, MO
- **Karen Helm, CMSM**, East Old Town Development Board, Winchester, VA
- **Jayne McGuire, CMSM**, Main Street Le Mars, Le Mars, IA
- **Maryellen Mooney, CMSM**, Wilburton Main Street, Inc., Wilburton, OK
- **Andre Natta, CMSM**, Birmingham, AL
- **Carl Rosa, CMSM**, Main Street Waterbury, Waterbury, CT

Established in 1980, the **National Trust Main Street Center** helps communities of all sizes revitalize their traditional historic commercial districts. The Main Street Center leads the preservation-based community revitalization movement and has proven that historic preservation and community-driven economic development effects lasting change. Active in more than 2,150 downtowns and neighborhood business districts, the Main Street program has generated more than \$44.9 billion in new investment. Participating communities have created 370,500 net new jobs, 82,900 net new businesses, and rehabilitated more than 199,500 buildings, leveraging an average of more than \$25 in new investment for every dollar spent on Main Street initiatives.

The **National Trust for Historic Preservation** is a non-profit membership organization bringing people together to protect, enhance and enjoy the places that matter to them. By saving the places where great

moments from history – and the important moments of everyday life – took place, the National Trust for Historic Preservation helps revitalize neighborhoods and communities, spark economic development and promote environmental sustainability. With headquarters in Washington, DC, nine regional and field offices, 29 historic sites, and partner organizations in all 50 states, the National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education, advocacy and resources to a national network of people, organizations and local communities committed to saving places, connecting us to our history and collectively shaping the future of America’s stories. For more information visit [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org)

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