



For Immediate Release

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SCARLETT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE TO TRANSITION TO INDEPENDENT FIRM

NASHVILLE, March 16, 2011 – Belmont University and Joe Scarlett announced today that the Scarlett Leadership Institute will establish itself as an independent company. After being based at Belmont University for the past five years, the Leadership Institute will function as a for-profit firm offering leadership development, making the transition to a training center in Cool Springs this spring. Joe Scarlett will continue to serve as a member of the Belmont University Board of Trustees.

Belmont University's College of Business Administration, which was recently ranked the top business school in the state by *BusinessWeek* magazine, has been offering executive education and certificate programs since the late '80s. Executive Education will continue to be offered by Belmont, and the portfolio of offerings will be expanded and focused on providing programs to meet the needs of Nashville's dynamic business community.

Scarlett, the retired chairman and CEO of Tractor Supply Company, has volunteered as an instructor and consultant with Belmont's Center for Professional Development since 2006. "The decision for us to transition the Institute to an independent firm is based solely on our long term objective to grow the Scarlett Leadership Institute into a much larger regional and eventually national entity," Scarlett said. "Belmont has done a great job helping us incubate this business concept, and it now makes sense to move outside the university to facilitate growth."

Dr. J. Patrick Raines, dean of Belmont's College of Business Administration, said, "We want to thank Joe Scarlett for his leadership as well as the opportunity for Belmont to partner with the Scarlett Leadership Institute for the past five years. Belmont's College of Business Administration has been providing executive leadership development opportunities for nearly 30 years, and we will continue to offer exceptional programs which complement our educational mission of bringing the best of the university and business together to learn."

Plans are underway to ensure a smooth transition for the customers who are currently active in the programs.

Ranked in the Top 5 in the Regional Universities South category and named for the third year as one of the top "Schools to Watch" by *U.S. News & World Report*, Belmont University is a fast-growing

community of more than 5,900 students who come from every state and 25 countries. Committed to being a leader among teaching universities, Belmont brings together the best of liberal arts and professional education in a Christian community of learning and service. The university's purpose is to help students explore their passions and develop their talents to meet the world's needs. With more than 75 areas of study, 20 master's programs and three doctoral degrees, there is no limit to the ways Belmont University can expand an individual's horizon. For more information, visit www.belmont.edu.