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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Hill Harper, Raye Mitchell and Lisa Jones Johnson Lead Successful Launch of *The M.B.A. Series*<sup>TM</sup> Executive Discussion Forums to Train and Inspire the Next Generation of Global Leaders.**

*On Saturday, November 17, 2012, The M.B.A. Series<sup>TM</sup> Executive Discussion Forums kicked off the first, post election, non-partisan discussion forum on Collaboration and Innovation-Where do we go from here? Led by a stellar panel of innovation experts including Debra Martin Chase, David Drake, Hill Harper, Lisa Jones Johnson, Raye Mitchell, and Isabel Pedrosa, this inaugural event delivered on the promise to share insights on how to occupy innovation to take us forward.*

**NATIONWIDE.** In keeping with the post election call to unite and focus on innovation and strategies to take America and this global economy forward, The M.B.A. Series<sup>TM</sup>- a new collaborative mentoring and training program to support educational excellence started by Harvard Alumni Hill Harper, Raye Mitchell and Lisa Jones Johnson- launched its inaugural *M.B.A. Series<sup>TM</sup> Executive Discussion Forums*. M.B.A. stands for motivated brilliant achievers. The M.B.A. Series<sup>TM</sup> is a multi-platform project that provides youth and young adults with leading edge technical skills development in leadership training to be future global leaders and benefits three foundations-The New Reality Foundation, Manifest Your Destiny and The Micro Learning Centers of America.

Raye Mitchell, CEO and Chief Social Entrepreneur of the New Reality Foundation and her fellow Harvard Law School Alumni, actor/author (“CSI-NY”) Hill Harper and media executive Lisa Jones Johnson hosted this first of many nationwide discussion forums at the Montage Hotel in Beverly Hills, CA. “This, first in a series of assembly of thought leaders and innovators, is the beginning of a new movement of social entrepreneurialism, the idea of doing well by doing good for a cause or causes that people can be galvanized by and feel passionate about.” –said series moderator and social entrepreneur Richard Fudge.

Entertainment leader and innovator, President and CEO of Martin Chase Productions, Debra Martin Chase, who recently signed a new series deal with ABC, stated that her business is “a success because of innovation and strategic collaborations.” Hill Harper brought forth insights as an entertainment leader and a social entrepreneur and stated, “This is a movement that’s going to change the course for our youth. It’s up to us. If not me, then who? If not now, then when?” David Drake, Chairman of LDJ Capital and The SoHo Loft Series, and Isabel Pedrosa, President of Gesar Capital Management, LLC, were the leaders of a dynamic conversation about access to capital, crowd funding and financial innovation.

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Speaking to a sellout, engaged and excited audience, Mitchell said, “ You need to provoke the status quo because not everyone can see into the future and participate disconnected from the past.” Lisa Jones Johnson President & CEO, The NextGen Media Group added, "Innovation is the key to progressing in today's increasingly complex world. Our forum examines what innovation means as it cuts across a wide variety of fields and experiences.”

*The M.B.A. Series™ Executive Discussion Forums* return to the Montage Hotel in January 2013. Registration is now open as space is limited. [www.thembaseries.org](http://www.thembaseries.org). Raye Mitchell will also discuss her new book focusing on how to occupy innovation as a skill and art - *The Laws of the New Game Changers: How to Make Breakthrough Impacts That Take You Forward*. *The M.B.A. Series™ Executive Discussion Forums* will soon announce its collaborations with David Drake and The SoHo Loft Series to bring forward leading programs on crowd funding and the JOBS Act, access to capital, and how innovation and entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship can help restore the American dream.

#### **ABOUT THE M.B.A. SERIES™ AND THE M.B.A. EXECUTIVE SERIES™**

The M.B.A. Series is intended to raise the bar in how we engage our youth of color and a new generation of young leaders and provide an intellectually rigorous, interesting and success-driven interactive learning experience. The M.B.A. Series™ exists to close the “access gap” for a new generation of leaders and provide access to those “inside tips,” “high-level skills development,” “mentor advice,” and “success strategies” to enable them to grow ahead of the curve and develop as global leaders.

#### **ABOUT RAYE MITCHELL’S G.U.R.L.S. ROCK GLOBAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM**

The G.U.R.L.S. Rock Global Leadership Program is a leadership-training initiative of The New Reality Foundation, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. As a Certified Social Impact Enterprise, the G.U.R.L.S. Rock leadership model is diverse and inclusive, and is involved in closing the leadership-training gap for girls and girls of color by providing skills training to be SocialPreneures™, the initiators of solving the challenges in their lives, and local and global communities. To learn more about G.U.R.L.S. Rock, please visit [www.GurlsRock.org](http://www.GurlsRock.org) and [www.fb.com/GurlsRockPower](http://www.fb.com/GurlsRockPower).

#### **ABOUT HILL HARPER’S MANIFEST YOUR DESTINY**

Manifest Your Destiny Foundation is a non-profit youth organization established by Ivy League actor Hill Harper. Manifest Your Destiny provides underserved youth a path to empowerment and educational excellence through academic programming, college access skills, and personal development. [www.manifestyourdestiny.org](http://www.manifestyourdestiny.org).

#### **ABOUT LISA JONES JOHNSON’S THE MICROLEARNING CENTERS OF AMERICA**

The MicroLearning Centers of America (MLC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to innovative educational alternatives designed to create leaders of the future for this country and the world. MLC has created an innovative program, which is a hybrid between a home school and a charter school and is designed to provide a concrete solution to the crisis in education faced by many of our young men and boys. [www.microlearningfoundation.org](http://www.microlearningfoundation.org).

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