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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Business Schools Indicate Relatively Stable Recruiting for Masters Level Jobs

Concerns emerge regarding International student hiring

March 17, 2017 – According to the latest research by the MBA Career Services & Employer Alliance, business schools are seeing a stable recruiting market for MBA and Masters programs compared with the same time period last fall.

The MBA Career Services & Employer Alliance, a global association of business school career management offices and companies who hire MBA and Masters in Business students, released the results of its Fall 2016 Recruiting Trends Survey today. Key findings include:

- 41% of schools reported an increase in on-campus recruiting for full-time MBA students in Fall 2016, with 29% reporting recruiting as flat (65% of respondents reported an increase in the Fall 2015 survey, and 17% reported it as flat). 23% of schools reported an increase for part-time MBAs, with 50% of schools reporting it as flat (compared with 46% reporting an increase in Fall 2015). Similar results were reported for Specialized Masters program recruiting, with 23% reporting an increase and 47% indicating reporting was flat (compared with 55% reporting an increase in Fall 2015).
- Full-time MBA programs identifying themselves as ranked from 21-50 reported the sharpest decrease (42%) in recruiting in 2016. In comparison, in 2015 83% of this group reported increased recruiting activity.
- Consulting and Technology industries continued to show stable year-over-year increases in recruiting activity, which is similar to what was seen in last year's survey, while Financial Services experienced the highest reported year-over-year increase. Consulting and Financial Services were also shown as decreasing by a large number of schools, showing further indication of an overall flat/stable recruiting environment on an aggregate level.
- Recruiting for full-time MBA students appears to have decreased from large companies (with over 500 employees), with 58% of respondents reporting an increase in Fall 2015 compared with 36% in fall 2016. Additionally, 49% of respondents in the Fall 2015 survey reported an increase in recruiting by firms outside of their geographic location, which grew to 54% in the Fall 2016 survey. Another noteworthy area in reported growth is recruiting by start-up organizations, which increased from 48% in Fall 2015 to 50% in Fall 2016. Part-time MBA and Specialized Masters programs also saw an increase in recruiting from start-up firms, which is consistent with previous years.
- Recruitment of International MBA students (or students without permanent work authorization) continues to be an area of concern, with 51% of schools reporting a decrease (compared with 38% reporting a decrease in Fall 2015). 27% of schools reported that recruiting for International students in Specialized Masters programs decreased, and 55% remained the same (compared with 18% indicating a decrease and 71% indicating it remained the same in last year's survey).

"After experiencing several years of aggressive growth in recruiting activity following the Great Recession, many of our school members experienced a flatter but stable recruiting environment this year," said Stephen Rakas, co-chair of MBA CSEA's Research & Trends Committee, and Executive Director of MBA Career Services at the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon. "The technology and consulting sectors continue to lead in year-over-year growth," Rakas added.



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Anecdotal comments from schools, as well as responses to a follow-up survey with survey respondents, revealed an increasing caution among employers in recruiting international students due to the current uncertainty around US immigration reform, which likely had an impact on survey results.

"Students gain so much from being in a diverse, international classroom experience, so it's important to have diverse, global opportunities for them to apply this learning at graduation," said Jamie Belinne, Assistant Dean, Bauer College of Business at the University of Houston and MBA CSEA President. "This is part of why MBA CSEA's European and Asian conferences have grown so much this year."

About the MBA Career Services & Employer Alliance

Founded in 1994, the MBA Career Services & Employer Alliance is a global professional association for individuals in the fields of graduate business career services and employers. There are more than 800 members representing a diverse group of more than 200 business schools and corporations located around the world. MBA CSEA provides a direct link between Business School Career Services offices, corporate graduate business recruiting professionals and the media. MBA CSEA sets MBA employment data reporting standards for business schools and monitors media rankings surveys for survey interpretation and alignment.

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