For Immediate Release:

**New Villanova University Online Course Enables Black Belts to Attain Lean Master Black Belt Certification**

Course Is Part of Advanced Master Certificate Program That Helps Black Belts Develop Enterprise-Wide Mastery of Lean Six Sigma Practices

**TAMPA, Fla., July 06, 2009** – Villanova University, the leader in Lean Six Sigma education, is enhancing its professional education offerings with the world’s only 100% online Advanced Master Certificate in Lean Six Sigma. In addition to enabling those with Black Belt training to achieve prestigious Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt certification, this program examines business processes from a holistic perspective, empowering participants to implement Six Sigma strategies that will create a positive impact across their entire enterprise.

The new program is essential for all individuals with Black Belt training who are looking to cement their leadership and Lean Six Sigma expertise, as well as those needing to meet re-certification requirements for Villanova’s Green Belt, Lean or Lean Black Belt certifications. **Lean Master Black Belt certification** can provide a significant boost to a Black Belt’s career. According to iSixSigma Global Salary Survey, the average yearly salary of U.S. Master Black Belts is $134,779 – approximately $30,000 more than those with Black Belt certification alone. The designation also carries considerable industry recognition and prestige.

Dan Munson, Director of Six Sigma Education for Villanova, notes, “This is the program that helps Black Belts distinguish themselves and reach the pinnacle of their profession. People completing these courses will be using their superior knowledge to mentor and manage other Black Belts. We give them the education they need to develop the robust leadership skills their organizations expect of them.”

Program participants need to complete the new Lean Master Black Belt course and two Villanova courses emphasizing leadership, management and technical knowledge to become certified Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belts and gain their Advanced Master Certificate in Lean Six Sigma. The new Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt course lasts 12 weeks and builds upon abilities the students have already cultivated as Black Belts. As with all of Villanova’s certificate programs, professionals working toward their Advanced Master Certificate in Lean Six Sigma can complete their coursework anywhere, anytime, through the convenience of online learning tools.

- continued –
About Villanova University
Founded in 1842, Villanova University is the worldwide leader in professional education online. A traditional, accredited university located in Villanova, Pennsylvania, it has more than 94,000 alumni, NCAA Division I athletic teams, unparalleled academic and technical support, and an outstanding faculty – over 90% of whom hold the highest degrees in their field. U.S. News & World Report has ranked Villanova #1 University in the North (Master’s Division) for more than a decade.

About University Alliance Online
The University Alliance (UA) facilitates the promotion and online delivery of associate’s, bachelor’s and master’s degrees as well as professional certificate programs from the nation’s leading traditional universities and institutions. Powered by UA’s technology and support services, our university partners have surpassed 300,000 online enrollments — making UA the largest facilitator of e-learning in the country. University Alliance partners include Villanova University, the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business, Tulane University’s Freeman School of Business, Thunderbird School of Global Management, the University of San Francisco, the University of South Florida, Florida Institute of Technology, The University of Scranton, Dominican University and Jacksonville University.

###