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Contact: Diane Savage

Phone: 847-756-7350, Ext. 136

E-Mail: [dsavage@infre.org](mailto:dsavage@infre.org)

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University Partnership Program will prepare future financial planning professionals to better meet retirement income management needs of the nation's 76 million baby boomers expected to retire over the next 20 years.

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The International Foundation for Retirement Education (InFRE) will join five university business and human sciences schools in providing future financial planning professionals with the additional training necessary to better handle the money needs of the rising number of retirees expected during the next 15 to 20 years.

The University Partnership Program will enable business majors to pursue formal designation as Certified Retirement Counselors (CRC) by enrolling in the InFRE-developed curriculum and passing a four-part examination previously offered only to working professionals in retirement planning and related fields.

Schools taking part in the first year of the program are the University of Alabama; University of Georgia; Kansas State University; University of Missouri; and Texas Tech University.

Participating students will be able to complement their financial planning curricula with self-study materials designed to broaden the scope of their retirement planning and income management skills. The self-study component is the same as that currently offered only to retirement planning professionals. Before the CRC designation is granted, students must then

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pass a series of four three-hour examinations given at their respective university testing centers.

“This is an opportunity for a credential in a growing market,” says Diane Savage, director of the program, Director of Professional Education. “The next 20 years will see 76 million people reach retirement age, and with many companies reducing or eliminating their pension plans, there will be an increased demand for professionals with specialized training in retirement needs.”

Students seeking the CRC designation will be able to do so at a reduced cost from that paid by working professionals. They will also be eligible for paid internships, scholarships and discounts on registration fees at professional and industry conferences. The recipient of the first scholarship, the NAGDCA/InFRE Arthur Caple Memorial Scholarship, will be announced in August.

The International Foundation for Retirement Education (InFRE) was founded in 1997 and is dedicated to informed, comprehensive education and certification programs for retirement professionals including financial advisors, retirement plan sponsors, financial services providers, and human resources and benefits personnel. For more information about InFRE and retirement income management, visit our website at [www.infre.org](http://www.infre.org).