

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Harris Nesbitt's "Equity Through Education" Campaign Raises \$225,000 for The Jackie Robinson Foundation**

**New York**—Institutional traders looking to make a difference through their work know to put Harris Nesbitt on speed dial. Each May, the American corporate and investment banking division of Bank of Montreal hosts a special day in which all institutional equity trading commissions benefit charity.

On May 17<sup>th</sup>, all of the institutional equity trading commissions earned by Harris Nesbitt across the United States benefited three higher education related not-for-profit organizations, including The Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF). Former New York Knick John Starks was on hand to sign autographs and energize the traders along with WNBC-TV sports anchor Otis Livingston. This is the second consecutive year that the Foundation has been invited to participate in the "Equity through Education" program.

The campaign yielded a \$225,000 gift to The Jackie Robinson Foundation, an increase from last year's commitment of \$200,000.

"We are pleased to have been selected again to participate in this outstanding partnership and delighted with what a resounding success the day was," said Della Britton Baeza, President and CEO of The Jackie Robinson Foundation.

"Through this initiative, Harris Nesbitt has shown that it shares the Foundation's commitment to enhancing access to higher education. Harris Nesbitt's sizeable investment in our Education and Leadership Development Program ensures the Foundation will continue to be well-positioned to help the next generation of leaders pursue their dreams of a college education, Britton Baeza concluded."

The Jackie Robinson Foundation provides four-year college scholarships and a comprehensive set of support services including mentors, leadership development training, career exploration programs and networking opportunities for minority students with records of financial need, academic distinction, civic engagement and leadership capacity. Since its inception in 1973, the Foundation has provided more than 1,100 scholarships and posted a 97% graduation rate among its scholarship recipients, more than twice the national average for minority students.

Harris Nesbitt, the U.S. investment and corporate banking arm of BMO Financial Group (NYSE, TSX: BMO), instituted the "Equity through Education" initiative to raise money for students who demonstrate academic promise but lack the support and means to pursue opportunities that can only be achieved through education.