

Worldstrides Joins Forces with New Century Tours and Acquires TravelMBA

Dec. 18 - Student travel company Worldstrides, backed by Charlesbank Capital Partners and Silverhawk Capital Partners (a Silverhawk), is pleased to announce that it is joining forces with New Century Tours and also, acquiring TravelMBA.

Joining the WorldStrides family of educational travel organizations is Annapolis-based New Century Tours, founded in 1990. New Century Tours specializes in providing stress-free, educational and safe tours for students and teachers. Together, New Century Tours and WorldStrides have over sixty years of experience in educational travel and have served more than four million student travelers. New Century Tours and WorldStrides are uniquely positioned to leverage the strengths of both organizations in delivering once-in-a-lifetime travel experiences to even more students.

TravelMBA, a leading supplier of travel and logistics services supporting MBA and Executive MBA global curricula, was founded 10 years ago. It serves more than a dozen universities, primarily from top-30 MBA and EMBA programs. Nearly half of TravelMBA's current client schools are also clients of Accent Travel Group. Together, Accent and TravelMBA form the University Division of WorldStrides, the premier travel organization serving the needs of short-term global study programs for colleges and universities. The company's clients are among the top-ranked programs in the world; with eight of BusinessWeek's top 10 schools and over 70 percent of the top-30 ranked programs. Committed to protecting the valuable reputations of the universities served, WorldStrides' University Division is the sole travel company in this niche market registered to serve MBA and EMBA students from all 50 states.

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About Worldstrides

Worldstrides is a Charlottesville, VA based student travel organization. The Company employs 400 full-time employees and offers educational programs focused on history, science and the arts to destinations spanning the United States, Canada, Costa Rica, Europe and Asia. Worldstrides is the first organization of its kind to be a supplemental education school and typically sends about 200,000 students across the nation each year. (Reach Worldstrides at 800-468-5899 or visit their website at www.worldstrides.com.)

About Silverhawk Capital Partners

Silverhawk Capital Partners is an independent investment firm established in 2005 to invest in lower middle market transactions within the Growth Industrial, Energy/Natural Resources and Business Service sectors.Â Silverhawk typically invests between \$10 million and \$50 million of equity capital in growth oriented businesses with revenues ranging from \$25 million to \$250 million.Â Silverhawk is currently investing in its second fund, closed in January, 2010.Â Silverhawk has offices in Greenwich, Connecticut and Charlotte, North Carolina. (Reach Silverhawk at (203) 861-2905 or via email at info@silverhawkcp.com.)