

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2006

Contact: Jennifer I. Curtin

Director of Public Affairs

410.430.1785

jcurtin@agacgfm.org

**Government Financial Management Professionals Meeting Set to Encourage a Citizen-Centered Government –
June 18-21 in San Diego, CA**

Alexandria, VA - Founder/President/CEO, Gardner Rich & Company, Christopher P. Gardner, and Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency, State of California, Former Treasurer of the United States, Rosario Marin, will headline the Association of Government Accountants' (AGAs') 55th Annual Professional Development Conference - June 18-21, 2006 at the San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina, San Diego, CA.

In his stirring autobiography, *The Pursuit of Happiness*, Gardner details his journey from homeless single father to self-made millionaire. Although Gardner claims that there is no secret to success other than 'blocking and tackling', he plans to deliver a message to attendees about how to proceed in life personally and professionally. Columbia Pictures plans to release the film version of this book, starring Will Smith, Jaden Smith and Thandie Newton on Dec. 15, 2006.

"In light of the nation's long-term fiscal imbalance and other emerging 21st century challenges, government financial managers need to examine what the government does, how it does it, who does it, and how it is financed in the future. The government is in a period of profound transition and faces an array of challenges and opportunities to enhance performance, ensure accountability, and position the nation for the future," stated, Marin. As a result, the PDC provides opportunities for government financial managers to develop the skills needed to provide this sought-after government transparency.

The PDC will bring together more than 1,800 professionals from federal, state and local government, as well as private sector leaders, to discuss critical government financial management issues. The conference offers unparalleled opportunities to make valuable professional contacts, discuss challenges, discover creative solutions and access the latest tools you need to become more effective.

Founder/President/CEO, Gardner Rich & Company, Christopher P. Gardner, will speak on Monday, June 19. Attendees will also gain an upbeat perspective about working for the federal government with Rosario Marin, Secretary of the State and Consumer Services Agency, State of California, on Wednesday, June 21. Other dynamic speakers and sessions include:

- **"An Update from Washington,"** Carlos Watson, Analyst, Columnist and Host of 'Off Topic', CNN;
- **"Ethics in Government,"** Marianne Jennings, JD, Professor of Legal and Ethical Studies, Arizona State University;
- **"The Human Capital Crisis,"** Peter Harkness, Editor & Publisher, *Governing Magazine*; and
- **"An Owner's Guide to the Future,"** David Zach, Futurist

To learn more about the conference, or about AGA, visit www.agacgfm.org/pdc. For press credentials, contact Jennifer Curtin at jcurtin@agacgfm.org, or at 410.430.1785.

Government financial managers are expected to make accountability their top priority. This national conference is a must for anyone working on the front lines of government financial management and involved in overseeing the direction of their agencies. The conference theme, "Navigating the Way to Citizen-Centered Government," will focus on how government financial professionals can lead positive change in the field.

The Association of Government Accountants is an 15,000-member professional Association devoted to meeting the continuing professional education needs of financial managers at all levels of government, the private sector and academia. For more information about the Association, or the Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM) Program, call 800.AGA.7211, or visit our website at www.agacgfm.org.

###