

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Otavala Consulting - “Helping people at the world of work.”**

Chicago, IL (11/18/2009) - Otavala Consulting, a management consulting firm based out of Chicago, sees great opportunity amid tough economic times. Otavala typically works with small and mid-sized companies, specializing in areas such as: conflict management, organizational efficiency, human resource management, and strategy.

Recent problems facing many organizations in the current market include restructuring and downsizing, realignment of job duties, and the effects of these (and other) issues on employee morale and overall organizational functioning. Extreme consequences often result if these problems are not resolved quickly and effectively, especially in companies already struggling to get by.

Property management companies are one example of the types of organizations really taking advantage of the innovative and customized solutions Otavala provides. Conflict is often a central issue in property management companies, especially when dealing with homeowners’ associations. Bringing on a third party such as Otavala to assist in mediation is a quick, cost effective method to resolve conflict (especially when compared with expensive, lengthy, drawn out legal proceedings). Beyond conflict management, Otavala can help these companies in areas such as employee selection and retention, customer service, management training, and team building.

Dr. Tomi Wahlstrom, lead consultant and Managing Partner of Otavala, has built his company around his belief in helping others and giving back to the community. This is evident in the type of work Otavala does with clients, but extends beyond that. Otavala places a strong emphasis on social responsibility, and is currently working with Ninash Foundation to help support Indo-International schools in India. One area of focus is organizing fundraising events and developing a Learn-and-Serve program for college students to study abroad in India, while helping underprivileged children obtain access to education and learning facilities.

Dr. Wahlstrom also works as a professor in the Chicago area. He frequently offers internships and consulting positions to Master’s and Doctorate level students and graduates in the field of Industrial/Organizational and Business Psychology.

“It is very difficult for young professionals to gain experience in an economy like this. Businesses aren’t hiring, they’re cutting back. An individual with little or no experience has no credibility in the field, but how is one supposed to gain experience if no one will give them the opportunity?”

Young professionals are able to learn the ins and outs of the profession while working alongside a team of experienced consultants. The junior consultants gain experience and are able to

provide a fresh perspective. They are more current with the latest industry trends and advances in the field, while senior consultants have their experience and expertise to offer. This design provides clients with the best of both worlds; the perfect combination of an academic framework paired with commercial consulting, and experience coupled with innovative thinking.

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