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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Rice Financial Hires Veteran Credit Analyst**

Emory Dawson Will be a Municipal Credit Resource for Issuer and Investor Clients

New York, New York, September 23, 2010 – Rice Financial Products Company announced that it has added a senior credit analyst to its ranks in New York City. Emory Dawson has joined the firm as a Senior Vice President. Mr. Dawson has 30 years of experience in municipal credit analysis, most recently with HRF Associates, a New Jersey based financial services consulting firm. In a previous position, he was Director of Municipal Underwriting at American Capital Access (ACA), where he originated, underwrote and syndicated virtually all high-yield transactions he sourced at the company over a 10-year span.

“Emory has a unique grasp of municipal credit quality that will be extremely valuable to the firm’s clients,” Chief Executive Officer Don Rice said. “His long tenure reviewing the credit quality of public and private entities has afforded him an insider’s understanding of the factors most critical to achieving a new or improved credit rating or insurance commitment. He will be able to identify and work through key issues with issuer clients to help them improve their chances at a new or upgraded credit rating, which leads to more favorable public reception of an issuer’s bonds and, ultimately, cost savings.”

After receiving a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Morehouse College and a master’s degree in regional planning from Syracuse University, Mr. Dawson began his career at Moody’s Investors Service, serving as a Review and New Issue Analyst for seven years. In this role, he supervised the review and analysis of and assigned credit ratings to transactions for all types of major issuers, including major airports, public power agencies and large water and sewer issuers. Later positions included Director of Municipal Research at Marine Midland Bank/HSBC (four years), Managing Director and Senior Account Manager at Union Bank of Switzerland (8 years), Director of Municipal Underwriting at American Capital Access (10 years) and Senior Vice President at HRF Associates (one year).

During his 10-year tenure at ACA, Mr. Dawson underwrote a broad array of credit types, including transportation facilities, ports and airports, private colleges and universities, private K-12 schools, sports facilities, bio-mass and thermal energy facilities, and health care facilities, among others. He marketed credit enhancement products, sourced high-yield transactions worthy of credit enhancement, and underwrote and managed the documentation and booking of high-yield transactions for the company’s portfolio of municipal, project finance, and not-for-profit taxable and tax-exempt securities. Over the course of his career at ACA, he sourced 33% of the company’s \$7 billion

book of high-yield municipal and project finance business and was responsible for 30% of the company's total booked premium (\$400 million). He also created and executed reinsurance agreements meeting state insurance and rating agency guidelines for the syndication of all exposure above ACA's single risk limit.

"One of Emory's most important contributions at Rice will be to the firm's role as Designated Bonding Authority for the federal Historically Black College and University Capital Financing Program," Rice President Cristal Baron said. "He will be an integral part of the committee that approves and helps structure transactions for institutions participating in the program. Emory's experience with higher education institutions is extensive."

Rice Financial Products Company

Founded in New York City in 1993, Rice Financial Products Company is one of the fastest growing underwriters of municipal bonds in the United States today. The firm provides services to municipalities and not-for-profit institutions in four key areas: structuring and underwriting, municipal sales and trading, taxable fixed income investing, and derivative products. Through the first half of 2010, the firm participated as a manager in bond transactions totaling \$21.4 billion (a 40% increase over the first half of 2009). The firm employs 45 people in 12 offices coast to coast.