

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 24, 2011

IGI's Guadalajara Polished Diamond Course Hits Maximum Enrollment *Institute's Educational Offerings in South America Continue to Garner High Interest*

GUADALAJARA, Mexico – The International Gemological Institute's (IGI) most recent polished diamond class in Guadalajara, Mexico reached maximum attendance—the peak of what has been consistently increasing in popularity since the course's first offering in early 2011.

Held in August, 18 students participated in the course that was led under the instruction of John Palladino, IGI director of new business development North & South America and Sergio Merizalde, IGI associate director of education. The class is administered in conjunction with Centro de Diseño y Desarrollo de la Industria de Joyería y Platería (CEDIJ) or “The Center for Design and Development of Jewelry and Silver Industry” and takes place at The Jewelry Center at Guadalajara World Trade Center.

Initially offered in February of this year, a second Guadalajara class was also held in early April, both garnering positive feedback and interest in more IGI courses. The Institute has been working to expand its gemological education initiatives and laboratory resources in South American countries—an effort met with great interest, as a total of 52 students have completed IGI courses in Guadalajara. The Institute plans to offer its first 10-day colored stone course in the city, scheduled for March 5 – 17, 2012.

“We are excited to have had such success as a result of our continued focus in South America,” said IGI President and CEO Jerry Ehrenwald, G.G., A.S.A. “We look forward to furthering our commitment here and hosting this course for future students who are eager to learn more about gemology and become integrated into the industry.”

Designed to provide students with the necessary skills to identify and grade diamonds in accordance with the one internationally accepted grading system, the course aims to yield a thorough understanding of worldwide grading standards in a fast-paced setting, making it ideal for those with already busy schedules. The curriculum focuses on individual student attention and an optimal learning environment.

IGI's addition of a Spanish language option to its worldwide website, www.igiworldwide.com, earlier this year continues to support the Institute's South American initiatives. The tool has enabled Spanish-speaking enthusiasts to access a wealth of educational resources through the IGI's School of Gemology, as well as opportunities to register for online courses in their native language.

For more information on IGI and upcoming gemological courses in New York, Guadalajara, Bogotá, Columbia or Panama, please contact the Institute at info@igi-usa.com or call 1-888-BUY-IGIS (toll free).

The International Gemological Institute, the world's largest independent laboratory for testing and evaluating gemstones and fine jewelry, was established in 1975 in Antwerp and is located in New York City, Los Angeles, Toronto, Hong Kong, Mumbai, the Seepz Zone, Kolkata, New Delhi, Dubai, Bangkok, Tokyo and Tel Aviv. IGI is an ISO accredited worldwide organization. For more information please visit www.igionline.com and www.igiworldwide.com.

###