

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Deep-Sea Explorer Robert Ballard to Address 2011 CPCU Class in Las Vegas**

**MALVERN, Pa.**—Dr. Robert D. Ballard, deep-sea explorer, will be the keynote speaker at The Institutes' 2011 Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU®) conferment ceremony. This year's CPCU conferment will be held in Las Vegas at Caesars Palace on October 22. Dr. Ballard inspires individuals to become great leaders by finding creative solutions to overcome obstacles. Speaking to members of the 2011 CPCU class and industry guests, Ballard will share his message of teamwork, discovery, and vision.

Best known for his 1985 discovery of the Titanic, Ballard has succeeded in tracking down numerous other significant shipwrecks. In addition to being a National Geographic Society explorer in residence and a commissioner on the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy, Ballard is the founder and president of the Institute for Exploration at Mystic Marinelife Aquarium in Mystic, Conn. In 1989, Ballard created the JASON Project, an educational program designed to inspire in students a lifelong passion to pursue learning in science, math and technology through exploration and discovery. He later developed telecommunications technology to create "telepresence" for his JASON Project, which allows hundreds of thousands of school children to accompany him from afar on undersea explorations around the globe.

Throughout his career, Ballard has conducted more than one hundred deep-sea expeditions, using both manned and unmanned vehicles. "I grew up wanting to be Captain Nemo from *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*," he said. Ballard has 13 honorary degrees and 6 military awards and has served in the U.S. Naval Reserve as a commander for 30 years. He has received several prestigious awards and has published 18 books, numerous scientific papers, and a dozen articles in *National Geographic* magazine. Ballard also has been featured in

several *National Geographic* television programs, including the record-breaking *Secrets of the Titanic*.

The Institutes will honor new graduates of the CPCU program at this conferment ceremony. Designees must pass a series of eight rigorous exams, agree to be bound by a strict code of ethics, and meet an industry experience requirement. More than 66,000 insurance professionals have earned the CPCU designation since the program's inception in 1942.

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A photo of Robert Ballard is available for download at [http://www.TheInstitutes.org/Images/people/Ballard\\_Robert.jpg](http://www.TheInstitutes.org/Images/people/Ballard_Robert.jpg)

### **About The Institutes**

The Institutes are the leader in delivering proven knowledge solutions that drive powerful business results for the risk management and property-casualty insurance industry.

The Institutes' knowledge solutions include the CPCU designation program; associate designation programs in areas such as claims, risk management, underwriting, and reinsurance; introductory and foundation programs; online courses; research; custom solutions; assessment tools; and continuing education (CE) courses for licensed insurance professionals and adjusters through its CEU.com business unit.