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**For Immediate Release**

**Ralph James Martin Named CEO of Civitas Media**

**Veteran Newspaper Executive to Oversee 100 Plus Community Newspapers**

**DAVIDSON, NC – January 20, 2015** – Civitas Media, a publisher of more than 100 community newspapers in 12 states, announced today the appointment of Ralph James Martin as Chief Executive Officer. Martin was recruited by Versa Capital Management, LLC (Versa), the company’s controlling shareholder.

Martin brings decades of experience in the newspaper industry, most recently as President and CEO of Trib Total Media in Pittsburgh, PA where he grew the business over the past 12 years. He also served as Founder, President and CEO of Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc., a group of 180 daily and weekly newspapers; as Vice President of Newspapers for Park Acquisitions, Inc.; and with Thomson Newspapers, where he rose from retail advertising sales to President of Thomson’s Eastern Region, Newspapers. A longtime leader in various community organizations, Martin currently serves as Chairman of the Board of the Pennsylvania NewsMedia Association and is a trustee of Robert Morris University.

“Ralph’s deep community newspaper experience and his ability to grow businesses strategically and financially will bring the right leadership to Civitas as the organization focuses on delivering the best local news and advertising solutions in its many markets,” stated Gregory Segall, Chairman of the Board of Civitas Media and CEO of Versa, the controlling shareholder. “Ralph also brings a reputation for working well on both the editorial and advertising sides of the business and for creating a team environment. We welcome him to Civitas Media as we thank Kamal and Lior for their leadership and service during this brief transition period.”

Versa Managing Directors Kamal Advani and Lior Yahalomi, who served as interim CEO and President, respectively, will serve on the Civitas board of directors.

**About Civitas Media, LLC**

Civitas (Latin for "community or "citizen") is exclusively focused on being the premier local information conduit of community news, information and relevant entertainment presented on a variety of platforms including print, digital media, video and other evolving technologies in both content and advertising. Based in Davidson, NC, the company includes more than 100 newspapers in 12 states: Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

## **About Versa Capital Management, LLC**

Based in Philadelphia, PA, Versa Capital Management, LLC is a private equity investment firm with more than \$1.4 billion of assets under management focused on control investments in special situations involving middle market companies where value and performance growth can be achieved through enhanced operational and financial management. Versa's portfolio includes retailers AVENUE Stores, Bob's Stores, Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS) and Sport Chalet; restaurant chain Black Angus Steakhouse; community newspapers under Civitas Media; and manufacturers that service a variety of industries. More information can be found at [www.Versa.com](http://www.Versa.com)

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