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MFHA SHOWCASE OF THE STARS™ PRESENTS AT JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY

Successful Industry Leaders Address and Interact With 300 Charlotte High School Students

Charlotte, NC (November 19, 2010) -- The Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance (MFHA), an educational non-profit dedicated to workforce diversity, will bring its award-winning Showcase of the Stars™ career exploration event to the **Johnson and Wales University- Charlotte Campus on Friday November 19, 2010 from 9:30am-1:00pm.**

MFHA's Showcase of the Stars™ is an interactive career exploration event that promotes career opportunities and aims to *educate, motivate and inspire future leaders* in the food and hospitality industry. Professionals from various segments of the industry participate in a panel discussion about career opportunities and engage the student audience by discussing and answering their specific questions.

Gerry Fernandez, President of MFHA, believes that, "Showcase has been so successful because it motivates students, provides positive and diverse role models, and brings schools and industry together around a common goal of career mapping."

MFHA and Johnson & Wales expect nearly 300 Charlotte area high school students to participate in the event. Participating high schools include: *Butler High School, East Mecklenburg High School, Garringer High School, Independence High School, Lincolnton High School, West Charlotte High School, and West Mecklenburg High School.*

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Featured panelists include: Armin Ahrabinejad, Managing Partner, **Darden**; Kasey Anderson, Executive Chef, **Darden**; Clayton Dyson, Franchise Owner, **Chick-fill-A**; Curtis Jerkins, Business Manager, **Burger King Corporation**; Fred LeFranc, Founding Partner, **Results Through Strategy**; Barrie Lobo, Corporate Executive Chef, **Morrison Management Services**; Robin Pickney, Senior Manager-Human Resources, **Burger King Corporation**; Richard Scott, Corporate Chef, **Denny's**; and Jose Figueroa, Food Service Manager, **HMS Host Food Services**.

The Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance's (MFHA) Showcase of the Stars™

MFHA's mission is to bring the benefits of cultural diversity to the food and hospitality industry by building bridges that deliver solutions. MFHA provides diversity resources, events and programs including *Showcase of the Stars™*. This program is a live, in-person career exploration event that promotes careers in the food and hospitality industry. The primary audience is diverse high school and college students, as well as adult professionals transitioning to new careers. For more information, visit www.mfha.net.

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