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INSPIRING HOSPITALITY CAREER EVENT COMING TO CHICAGO

Successful Industry Leaders Offer Guidance, Opportunity and Student Interaction

Chicago, IL (Mar. 15, 2010) -- The Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance (MFHA) brings its award-winning Showcase of the Stars™ career exploration event to the Riverworks Campus of Kendall College on Monday, March 15 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., and Tuesday, March 16 from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

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."

On March 15 and 16, respectively, 50 college students and 160 high school students from diverse backgrounds will participate in MFHA's Showcase of the Stars™. Following the panel, the industry leaders will host classroom discussions, providing students an opportunity to discuss their career goals and ask questions.

Participating industry leaders on March 15 are: Laurie Beasley, Director, Talent Acquisition, **ARAMARK**; Sammy Coker, Field Operations, **McDonald's Corporation**; Robert Davis, Regional Director, **The Palm Restaurants**; Chef Cary Neff, Vice President, Corporate Culinary Service, **Morrison Management Specialists**; Roberto Salgado, General Manager, **Sodexo**; and Donald Ray Williams, Transportation Supervisor, **US Foodservice**.

On March 16 participating panelists include: Cassandra Crawley, Vice President Healthcare Division, **Sodexo**; Donna L. Whims, RD, LD, Assistant Food Service Director, **ARAMARK**; Sammy Coker, Field Operations, **McDonald's Corporation**; Robert Davis, Regional Director, **The Palm Restaurants**; Chef Cary Neff, Vice President, Corporate Culinary Service, **Morrison Management Specialists**; Roberto Salgado, General Manager, **Sodexo**; and Donald Ray Williams, Transportation Supervisor, **US Foodservice**.

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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