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INSPIRING HOSPITALITY CAREER EVENT PRESENTS IN DENVER

Successful Industry Leaders Offer Guidance, Opportunity and Student Interaction

Denver, CO (Jan. 22, 2010) – On Friday, Jan. 22, the Multicultural Foodservice and Hospitality Alliance presented its award-winning Showcase of the Stars™ event at Johnson & Wales University. 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 participated in a panel discussion about career opportunities and engaged the student audience by discussing and answering their specific questions.

One student asked panelists, “What do you look for when hiring an employee?” Giving future leaders the advice they can use to further their own professional development, Mitch Lehn, Vice President, Human Resources at US Foodservice answered, “One of the biggest down falls I see is people don’t know what they want. They want a job, that’s why they’re interviewing, but when you ask them questions they don’t have the conviction- they don’t have it thought out in their mind of what they want do to. So, find something you want and stick with it and tell people that’s exactly what you want to do.”

Furthermore, Lehn advised students to, “Do something out of your comfort zone - pursue it and learn it.”

Students participating in the showcase event were sophomores and juniors from the Denver area. Many of them are considering a career in the hospitality industry. Attending Showcase events allows students the opportunity to learn about career opportunities in the industry and ask tough questions to some of the outstanding professionals in top U.S. companies.

Additional participating industry leaders were: **Christina Bayon, National Account Sales Manager Foodservice of IZZE Beverage Company; Bobby Campbell, Joint-Venture Partner, Carrabbas; Fred Ellis, Associate District Manager, ARAMARK; Darin Gruenhaupt, Director of Foodservice, IZZE Beverage Company; Oliver Kemp, Operations Manager, McDonald's USA; and Janet Spencer, Director of Marketing, Mountain City Meat.**

For more information on upcoming national Showcase events visit www.mfha.net or call 401.461.6342.

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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