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MFHA SHOWCASE OF THE STARS™ AT JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY

Successful Industry Leaders Address and Interact With 500 RI High School Students

Providence, RI (November 5, 2010) -- The Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance (MFHA), and 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 on Friday November 5, 2010 from 9:00am-12:00pm. The program will be held in Xavier Hall.

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 500 Rhode Island high school students to participate in the event. Participating high schools include: *Cranston Career & Tech Center, Davies Career and Tech, East Providence Career and Tech, North Kingstown High School, Providence Career and Technical Academy, Shea High School, Textron Chamber of Commerce Academy, Tiverton High School, Woonsocket Area Career & Tech, and Westerly High School.*

Featured panelists include: Demaris Betances, Sales Manager, **Renaissance Providence Downtown Hotel**; Hughes Bucher, Executive Chef/Partner, **Capital Grille**; Richard Dickerson, Dining Room Manager, **Capital Grille**; Bill Duncan, Brand Performance Consultant, **Choice Hotels International**; Audwin Hutson, General Manager Nutrition Services, **ARAMARK**; and Dennis Labossiere, Catering Sales Director, **Cozy Caterers**.

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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