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**INSPIRING HOSPITALITY CAREER EVENT COMING TO MIAMI**

*Successful Industry Leaders Offer Guidance, Opportunity and Student Interaction*

**Miami, FL (Jan. 15, 2010)** -- The Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance (MFHA) brings its award-winning Showcase of the Stars™ career exploration event to the Miami campus of Johnson & Wales University on Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.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."

Over 100 students from diverse backgrounds will participate in MFHA's Showcase of the Stars™ in the Johnson & Wales University Auditorium. Following the panel, the high school students will also receive a campus-wide tour led by current JWU students.

Participating industry leaders are: **Johannah Estep, Marketing Manager, Burger King Corporation; Diane Landress, Director of Business Development, PepsiCo Foodservice; Cirabel Lardizaábal, Director of Strategy & Planning, Sodexo; and Millie Varela, Managing Partner, Outback Steakhouse.**

**The Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance (MFHA)**

MFHA was founded in 1996 to act as a catalyst for change in the area of workforce diversity. Its mission is to bring the benefits of cultural diversity to the food and hospitality industry by building bridges that deliver solutions. MFHA provides diversity research, language learning tools and other resources to assist in diversity development. For more information, visit [www.mfha.net](http://www.mfha.net).

**Showcase of the Stars™**

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The Multicultural Foodservice and Hospitality Alliance's Showcase of the Stars™ is a live, in person career exploration event that promotes careers in the food and hospitality industry. The primary audience for Showcase of the Stars™ is minority high school and college students. Select events also target adult professionals transitioning to new careers. Showcase of the Stars™ is executed in a panel format engaging professionals who represent different segments of the industry. For more information, visit [www.mfha.net](http://www.mfha.net)

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