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**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **HOSPITALITY EMPLOYEES RECEIVE RECOGNITION FOR SUPERIOR SERVICE**



CFHLA hosted the 2012 Golden Pineapple Awards recognizing Central Florida's outstanding hospitality employees

ORLANDO, FL: On Thursday evening, January 24th, at the DoubleTree By Hilton at the Entrance to Universal Orlando, the **Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA)** hosted its annual **Golden Pineapple Awards** recognizing hospitality's "front line" employees for their outstanding guest service. This awards dinner celebration honored Central Florida's exemplary hospitality employees from 12 different categories:

**Outstanding Back Office Employee of the Year**

Lina Hariri, Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Resort

**Outstanding Bell Person / Concierge Employee of the Year**

Laird Edwards, The Peabody Orlando

**Outstanding Community Service Employee of the Year**

Melissa Brooks, Reunion Resort & Club, Wyndham Grand Resort

**Outstanding Convention Center / Banquet Employee of the Year**

Emila Cummings, Orlando World Center Marriott

**Outstanding Culinary Employee of the Year**

Tho Nguyen, The Peabody Orlando

**Outstanding Engineering Employee of the Year**

Jeff Forbes, Orange Lake Resort

**Outstanding Food & Beverage Service Employee of the Year**

Marcela Martineau, Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress

**Outstanding Front Office Employee of the Year**

Brian Price, Nickelodeon Suites Resort

**Outstanding Housekeeping Employee of the Year**

Marie Eveillard, Marriott Village at Lake Buena Vista

**Outstanding Laundry Employee of the Year**

Silma Aquino, The Florida Hotel and Conference Center

**Outstanding Recreational Employee of the Year**

Norm Anthony, The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes

**Outstanding Security / Loss Prevention Employee of the Year**  
Martha Hopkins, Crowne Plaza Orlando Downtown

Nearly 200 employees were nominated for awards, representing 45 Central Florida lodging properties. Prior to dinner, all nominees were invited to attend a special VIP Reception with City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer. Each nominee had the opportunity to meet Mayor Dyer, who also offered a toast at the beginning of this dinner.



Mayor Dyer toasts Golden Pineapple Awards nominees

Additionally, CFHLA presented a total of 9 collegiate scholarships (totaling \$9,000) to family members of hotel “front-line” employees.

For more information about how CFHLA is advancing tourism and the community through hospitality, please visit our website: [www.cfhla.org](http://www.cfhla.org)

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*The Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA) is the world's largest regional hotel association, representing approximately 80% of the hotels in Orange, Osceola and Seminole Counties.*