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CONTACT:

Robert Agrusa
President/CEO

Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association
(407) 907-8082

Robert.Agrusa@CFHLA.org

CFHLA ANNOUNCES CLASS IV OF THE LEADERSHIP MENTORING PROGRAM

ORLANDO, FLA (May 29, 2025) – Today, the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA) is proud to announce the selection of 15 mentees and 30 mentors who will participate in the CFHLA Leadership Mentoring Program, Class IV. These distinguished individuals represent the next generation of diverse and dynamic leaders in the hospitality industry across the Central Florida region (including Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties).

Launched in 2022, CFHLA's Leadership Mentoring Program was created to cultivate and empower future leaders from a wide range of backgrounds, while addressing the growing need for diversity in executive-level hospitality roles. Over the past three years, the program has successfully graduated more than 40 hospitality professionals, each guided by at least two seasoned mentors from Central Florida's lodging and allied member companies.

"The CFHLA Leadership Mentoring Program is an important organizational initiative within our strategic plan," said Robert Agrusa, president and CEO of CFHLA. "By investing in the mentorship, growth, and leadership development of our workforce, we are not only helping to build their careers but preparing them for long-term success as the future leaders of Central Florida's hospitality industry."

The inaugural class in 2022 featured 16 mentors guiding eight emerging leaders. In 2023, the program expanded to support 14 mentees and 30 mentors in Class II, followed by 18 mentees and 30 mentors in Class III. The continued growth of the program demonstrates CFHLA's commitment to fostering and retaining talent and advancing the future leadership opportunities within the region.

Each participant in the program completes a curriculum focused on critical leadership skills, including leadership management, public speaking, networking, conflict

resolution, and emotional intelligence. These tools not only prepare mentees for advancement but also enrich the overall strength and inclusiveness of the hospitality workforce in Central Florida.

Congratulations to the following 15 individuals who have been selected to participate in Class IV of the CFHLA Leadership Mentoring Program:

Nickii Aguilera	Activities Assistant Manager, Wyndham Bonnet Creek Resort
Zandi Cabiltes	Activities Associate, Wyndham Bonnet Creek Resort
Imilse Del Villar	Operations Coordinator, CRB Hospitality Operations
Makeylah Dominguez	Executive Assistant, SimpleFire, LLC
Walis Garcia	Accounting Assistant, CRB Hospitality Operations
Kristina Lundeborg	Group Sales Manager, Westgate Resorts
Katherine Matthews Pankow	Assistant General Manager, AC by Marriott Orlando Downtown
Whitley McCoy	Complex Housekeeping Manager, Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort
Lauren Miller	Director of Corporate Marketing, Westgate Resorts
Megan Rhode	Project Event Manager, Kids Nite Out
Ana Roman	Sales Coordinator, Wyndham Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area
Anielka Roser	Complex Housekeeping Manager, Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort
Casey Sharp	Recreation Guest Experience Manager, Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort
Alana Ward	Complex Front Desk Manager, Walt Disney World Swan & Dolphin Resort
Lexi Willaman	Account Manager, LandCare

Additionally, CFHLA would like to thank the following 30 hospitality professionals who have graciously agreed to help mentor the next generation of hospitality industry professionals.

Cindy Andrews	Sunbrite Outdoor Furniture, Inc.
Minerva Aponte	CoCo Key Resort & Water Park Orlando
Erin Arpke	Holiday Inn & Suites across from Universal Orlando
Jonathan Barisano	Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando
Melissa Brooks	Visit Florida
Jesse Crawford	Ferran Services & Contracting Inc.
Dan DeBord	The Grove Resort & Spa
Scott Disson	Courtyard Orlando Airport
Lauren Gossett	Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort
Richard Hess	Hilton Orlando
Jorg Heyer	Marriott Vacations Worldwide
Ally Martin	Hyatt House Orlando Airport
Benjamin McCarney	Grand Bohemian Hotel Orlando
Amber McCoy	SpringHill Suites Lake Buena Vista South

Colleen Mera	Brush & Brand
Clint Militzer	DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando SeaWorld
Crystal Morrell	Sheraton Orlando Lake Buena Vista Resort
Amy Norton	Residence Inn by Marriott Orlando Convention Center
Seilly Pacheco	The Inn at Celebration
Maria Pastrana	Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress
Lou Rocco	Global Sourcing International, LLC
David Saczawa	JR Hobbs Co-Atlanta LLC
Georgia Sheffield	JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes
Charis Sirolly	Hilton Orlando
Katerina Templo	Hampton Inn & Suites Clermont
Glen Vlasic	SpringHill Suites Orlando at Flamingo Crossing
Paul Webber	Hyatt Regency Orlando International Airport
Greg Wiley	GX Solutions
Duane Winjum	Hilton Garden Inn and Homewood Suites Lake Buena Vista, and Homewood Suites Orlando Theme Parks

The Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association's mission is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service. As the largest regional lodging association in the United States, CFHLA represents approximately 80 percent of the more than 129,500 hotel rooms throughout the Central Florida Region (including but not limited to Lake, Orange, Osceola, Polk, and Seminole counties) and more than 500 "supplier" organizations that do business with the hospitality and tourism industries.

For more information on the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, please visit www.cfhla.org.

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