



April 7, 2023

## CFHLA NEW MEMBER RECEPTION



Earlier this week, CFHLA had the opportunity to welcome more than **30 new Members** to the Association at our **New Member Reception!**

A special thank you to our **CFHLA Board Member and Membership Committee Chair Joe Cardone** for hosting this wonderful evening at the [DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld!](#) Also, thank you to all of our Membership Committee members who joined us as well, to welcome our new members!



[Click Here to View Photos from the New Member Reception](#)

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## **VISIT FLORIDA'S DANA YOUNG NAMED 2022 CFHLA PUBLIC SERVANT OF THE YEAR**

This week, the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA) recognized **Dana Young**, President and CEO of [VISIT FLORIDA](#) as the Association's **2022 CFHLA Public Servant of the Year**.

Each year, CFHLA recognizes a community leader for their dedication to the advancement of Central Florida's Hospitality Industry.

As VISIT FLORIDA's President and CEO, Dana leads Florida's official destination marketing organization in partnership with its Board of Directors and the statewide tourism industry.

**Congratulations Dana! We thank you for being a statewide champion of tourism and for continuously showing your unwavering support for the hospitality and tourism industry!**

[CLICK HERE](#) to read the full release.



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## **SEMINOLE COUNTY STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS**

On **Monday, April 3rd**, CFHLA was excited to hear about the continued growth that is happening in Seminole County, as well as the positive impact that the hospitality industry is making at the **2023 State of the County Address!**

Thank you to the [Seminole County Chamber](#) for hosting the event at our member property, the [Orlando Marriott Lake Mary!](#)

We look forward to continuing to work with Chair Lockhart and the rest of the [Seminole County](#) Commissioners, throughout the year and beyond!



## **CEDRIC PAS CELEBRATION OF LIFE**

Thank you to all of our CFHLA Members who joined us on Wednesday evening, to celebrate the life of **Cedric Pas** with his family.

Special thanks to CFHLA Board Member and General Manager Jay Leonard, of the [Wyndham Garden Lake Buena Vista Disney Springs Resort Area](#) for hosting the event and to Linda Grier, owner of [Greenery Productions](#) for donating the beautiful flower arrangements.

Anyone wishing to support the the family during this difficult time, can [CLICK HERE](#) to find out how to help.



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## OSCEOLA COUNTY'S INAUGURAL HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY COMPETITION

On **Thursday, April 6th**, CFHLA was proud to support the **INAUGURAL Osceola County School District's High School Culinary Competition!**

With **more than 150 students from six hospitality and culinary schools in Osceola County** competing, this was a fantastic opportunity for our local Osceola students to showcase their skills and prepare for future state-level competitions.

Thank you to the culinary competition host, **CFHLA Board Member Glen Vlastic** and the team at **Wyndham Orlando Resort & Conference Center Celebration Area**, the School District of Osceola County, and all of the industry professionals, teachers, and sponsors who contributed to the success of this inaugural competition!

Also, we appreciate all of our CFHLA members who also helped support this incredibly important workforce development initiative including **Disney**, **Clean Tec Services**, **Dominos**, **Encore**, **Absolute Uniforms**, **UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management**, **Kenney Communications**, **FantasyWorld Resort**, **Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin** and **Experience Kissimmee!**

Congratulations again to all the competitors, including our High School Outreach partner **Osceola High School**, who swept the Waiter's Relay Competition!



[Click Here to View Photos from the Culinary Competition](#)

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## UCF ROSEN MEET AND GREET - HILTON HOTELS



On **Wednesday, April 5th**, leadership from several **Central Florida Hilton Brand properties** participated in our third student meet and greet of 2023, at the [UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management](#).

Students had the opportunity to speak with General Managers and leaders from the Events, Front Office, Food & Beverage, Human Resources, and Sales departments regarding what it's like to work in full-service and select-service hotels/resorts.

Thank you so much to our CFHLA member properties, [DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at the Entrance to Universal Orlando](#), [Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando I-Drive ICON Park](#), [Hampton Inn by Hilton Orlando I-Drive Convention Center](#), [Hilton Garden Inn Lake Buena Vista/Orlando](#), [Hilton Orlando](#), [Homewood Suites by Hilton Lake Buena Vista/Orlando](#), [Homewood Suites by Hilton Orlando I-Drive Convention Center](#), [Homewood Suites by Hilton Orlando Theme Parks](#), [Signia by Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek](#), and [Waldorf Astoria Orlando](#) for sharing your knowledge, experience, and career advice with these students!

We have one more meet and greet later this month, as we wrap up the 2023 Spring Semester!



[Click Here to View Photos from the Meet & Greet](#)

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## CFHLA IN THE CLASSROOM DAY

Last week, CFHLA Members from the **Vacation Ownership Council** and **High School Outreach Subcommittee** participated in a brand new initiative - **CFHLA in the Classroom Day!**

More than a dozen CFHLA Members and their teams visited six Hospitality and Tourism Programs at [Orange County Public Schools](#) to speak with students about the exciting career opportunities in Central Florida's Hospitality Industry.

Thank you to all our CFHLA members, and the educators with OCPS, who made last week's visits possible:

- [Cypress Pointe - Oak Ridge High School](#)
- [Domino's - Windermere High School](#)
- [Evermore Resort & Universal's Cabana Bay Beach Resort - Colonial High School](#)



- [Hilton Grand Vacations, Las Palmeras - Dr. Phillips High School](#)
- [Hilton Grand Vacations at SeaWorld & Best Western Airport Inn & Suites - Horizon High School](#)
- [Universal's Cabana Bay Beach Resort - Olympia High School](#)

If you'd like to get involved with our High School Outreach Subcommittee, please contact Melanie Anesh at [melanie.anes@cfhla.org](mailto:melanie.anes@cfhla.org).



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**TRON LIGHTCYCLE / RUN OFFICIALLY OPENS AT WDW**



This week, several of our CFHLA Members had the opportunity to celebrate the long-anticipated arrival and grand opening of **Walt Disney World's TRON Lightcycle / Run**. Thank you Disney for your continued partnership with CFHLA and for the generous donation of **\$100,000** to Orange County Public Schools (OCPS)!

Congratulations Walt Disney World and OCPS on an exciting night!



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR

## APRIL MEMBERS OF THE MONTH



**John McCracken**  
[Marriott Village Orlando](#)



**Chad Rocheford**  
[Crown Linen LLC](#)

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### MEET THE VIP

Did You Know...[Blown Away](#) was started in 1999 as a Street Sweeping company with one truck and a backpack blower. Over the past 20+ years, the company has grown to 50 pieces of equipment, eight separate service lines and provided countless jobs locally.



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### UPCOMING EVENTS

For more information on upcoming events, or to register, just click on the links below.

- [CFHLA Board Executive Committee Meeting \(4/11/2023\)](#)  
[CFHLA Wednesday Morning Leads Group \(4/12/2023\)](#)

- [CFHLA Wednesday Noon Leads Group \(4/12/2023\)](#)
- [Security & Safety Council Meeting \(4/13/2023\)](#)
- [Engineers Council Clay Shooting Tournament \(4/14/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Foundation CARES Drive \(4/20/2023\)](#)
- [CFHLA Gives Luncheon - \(4/20/2023\)](#)
- [Seminole County General Managers Luncheon \(4/25/2023\)](#)
- [Osceola County General Managers Luncheon \(4/27/2023\)](#)
- [Vacation Ownership Council Meeting \(5/4/2023\)](#)
- [Diversity Committee Meeting \(5/8/2023\)](#)
- [I-Drive/LBV Area General Managers Meeting and Reception \(5/10/2023\)](#)
- [2023 Hob Nob - Allied Registration \(5/17/2023\)](#)
- [2023 Hob Nob - Lodging Registration \(5/17/2023\)](#)
- [Airport Area General Managers Luncheon \(5/23/2023\)](#)

[Click Here to View Upcoming CFHLA Meetings](#)

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## JOB OPENINGS

Check out the latest hospitality employment opportunities in Central Florida.

[VIEW JOB POSTINGS](#)

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## CONNECT WITH CFHLA



[WWW.CFHLA.ORG](http://WWW.CFHLA.ORG)

About CFHLA

6675 Westwood Blvd #210, Orlando, FL 32821

The mission of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association is to represent the Central Florida Hospitality Industry, by setting the standard of excellence through advocacy, collaboration, education, recognition, and service.