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CFHLA ANNOUNCES THE 2024 GOLDEN PINEAPPLE AWARD WINNERS

This Annual Signature Event Recognizes Hospitality Workers for Superior Service

ORLANDO, Fla. (February 28, 2024) – On Thursday, February 22, 2024, at the Orlando World Center Marriott, the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA) hosted its annual Golden Pineapple Awards dinner and celebration.

This year, CFHLA recognized over 230 “front line” employees from 60 different Central Florida lodging properties, for their exemplary service and outstanding customer satisfaction throughout 2023.

Additionally, Ybeth Bruzual of Spectrum News 13, served as the emcee for the event, which attracted nearly 950 attendees.

Throughout the evening, CFHLA recognized and honored the following thirteen hospitality employees, as the winners for each of the designated categories.

The 2024 Golden Pineapple Award winners include:

Outstanding Back Office Employee of the Year

Laura Grisales, Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando - Lakewood

Outstanding Bell Person/Concierge Employee of the Year

Anthony Dunn, Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress

Outstanding Community Service Employee of the Year

Steve Averitt, Reunion Resort & Spa

Outstanding Convention Center/Banquet Employee of the Year

David Munoz, Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes

Outstanding Culinary Employee of the Year

Maria Sandoval, JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes

Outstanding Engineering Employee of the Year

William Warren, Sheraton Suites Orlando Airport

Outstanding Food & Beverage Service Employee of the Year

Leidy Marin, Homewood Suites Orlando I-Drive Convention Center

Outstanding Front Office Employee of the Year

Glenda Baker, Marriott's Royal, Sabal & Imperial Palms

Outstanding Housekeeping Employee of the Year

Camille Hall, Holiday Inn Orlando International Airport

Outstanding Laundry Employee of the Year

Zenaida Ibanez Gamboa, Hampton Inn & Suites Orlando / East UCF Area

Outstanding Recreational Employee of the Year

Travis Buffenbarger, Gaylord Palms Resort & Convention Center

Outstanding Security/Loss Prevention Employee of the Year

Fidel Cosbert, Hyatt Regency Orlando

Outstanding Steward/Dishwasher Employee of the Year

Weendy Gomez De Lopez, Universal's Aventura Hotel at Universal Orlando Resort

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 in Orange, Seminole and Osceola 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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