

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT:

Keith Landry
Director of Communications & Marketing
Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association
Cell (407) 474-3841
Keith.Landry@CFHLA.org

CFHLA PARTNERS DONATE NEARLY 6,000 BUSINESS CLOTHING ITEMS TO HELP CENTRAL FLORIDA STUDENTS AS PART OF THE CFHLA CARES PROFESSIONAL CLOTHING DRIVE

ORLANDO, Fla. (October 7, 2024) – Today, Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association (CFHLA) will distribute 5,900 professional clothing items to Orange County Public Schools, Osceola County Public Schools and Seminole County Public Schools. These gently used men’s business suits and jackets; women’s professional dresses and business suits; belts, purses, ties and other accessories will be donated to Central Florida students in need, who have limited resources and are preparing for job interviews and new careers.

News crews are welcome today to videotape hundreds of collected items and to interview volunteers who are making a difference for our future professionals. **Please stop by the CFHLA office located at 6675 Westwood Blvd., Suite 210, Orlando, FL 32821 between 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.**

Feel free to use CFHLA’s **edited video and raw interviews** gathered last week while individuals dropped off clothing, via [Dropbox](#):

Kathleen Wright, Administrator of the Partners in Education Program at The Foundation for Orange County Public Schools, is thrilled. Wright says, “These donated clothes will make a huge difference for the future of our students. Many cannot afford to buy three or four business suits for interviews or to start a new job. Showing up looking great will give them a strong boost in confidence and will help create a pathway toward success.”

Robert Agrusa, President and CEO of the Central Florida Hotel and Lodging Association, says CFHLA’s tourism and hospitality partners are always looking for ways to give back to our community. Agrusa says, “We are humbled to see this strong response to our CFHLA Cares collection drive. Teams from independent hotels, small businesses and major resorts all came together to improve these students’ lives. We look forward to continuing our partnerships with each of the school districts within the

Central Florida region and making a positive impact that helps our students succeed as they move into the careers they choose.”

Today’s CFHLA Cares Professional Clothing Drive distribution follows the annual Gives Luncheon on June 20, 2024, presented by CFHLA and the CFHLA Foundation. The organizations awarded \$142,600 in student scholarships that day to 64 college and high school students across Central Florida. They also presented \$44,950 in hospitality education and community grants to six local educational institutions and organizations.

About Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association

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.

###