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**CFHLA ANNOUNCES THE 2026 DISTINGUISHED LEADERS IN
HOSPITALITY AWARD WINNERS**

The Annual Signature Event Recognizes Supervisory & Management Hotel Employees

ORLANDO, Fla. (May 29, 2026) – On Thursday, May 28, 2026, at The Ritz-Carlton Orlando, Grande Lakes, the Central Florida Hotel & Lodging Association (CFHLA) hosted its annual Distinguished Leaders in Hospitality Awards reception.

This year, CFHLA recognized more than 163 hospitality professionals who were nominated from 63 different CFHLA member lodging properties. Each nominee was recognized for their strong leadership, their ability to inspire their teams to excel, and embody the very best in hospitality as they created exceptional guest experiences for all visitors throughout the Central Florida region.

With more than 500 in attendance, the following eight hotel leaders were recognized and honored as the winners for each of the designated categories.

The 2026 Distinguished Leaders in Hospitality Award winners include:

Distinguished Leader in Operations – Front of House

Nickolette Fernandez, Front Office Manager, Loews Royal Pacific Resort

Distinguished Leader in Culinary

Christopher Martinez, Executive Sous Chef, Caribe Royale Orlando

Distinguished Leader in Operations – Back of House

Vivian Benavides, Executive Housekeeper, Hyatt House Orlando Airport

Distinguished Leader in Sales, Marketing & Revenue
Sherri Harris, Senior Sales Manager, Hyatt Regency Orlando

Distinguished Leader in Events & Meetings
Jessika Perez, Banquet Manager, Alford Inn at Rollins

Distinguished Leader in Support Services / Back Office
Phillip Morgan, Director of Safety & Security, Evermore Orlando Resort

Emerging Hospitality Leader
Hannah Cooper, Plancha Assistant Manager, Four Seasons Resort Orlando
at Walt Disney World

Executive of the Year
Tiffany Pera, Director of Operations, Walt Disney World Swan Reserve

To learn more about each of our 2026 Distinguished Leaders in Hospitality Award winners and their stories, please visit <https://www.cfhla.org/distinguished-leaders-hospitality-award-winners/>.

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.

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