

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Female Executives to Speak, Inspire at UCF Rosen College's First Women's Hospitality & Tourism Leadership Forum

Orlando, FL (Jan. 22, 2015) – The University of Central Florida's Rosen College of Hospitality Management will host the first Women's Hospitality & Tourism Leadership Forum (WHTLF) on Friday, March 20, 2015. In celebration of Women's History Month, this premier event will bring together industry leaders, professionals and students to promote leadership excellence among women in the hospitality and tourism management industries.

This year's theme focuses on professional advancement for women in hospitality and tourism management. Speakers include:

Nancy Johnson

President, Johnson Hospitality Motivation, LLC

Sarah King

Executive Vice President of Human Resources,
Wyndham Vacation Ownership

Barbara Bowden

Managing Director of Operations,
Loews Hotels at Universal Orlando

Vail Brown, CMHS

Vice President, Global Business Development &
Marketing, STR

LaShawn Cartwright

Recruitment Manager, Talent Acquisition,
Chick-fil-A

Thea Sargent

Director, Destination Sales,
The Walt Disney Company

Salli Setta

President, Red Lobster

The Forum was conceived and organized through a joint effort of the UCF National Society of Minorities in Hospitality (NSMH) student group and Rosen College faculty and staff.

"We're very excited about spotlighting successful female leaders in the hospitality and tourism industry and bringing them face to face with students and rising professionals," said Dr. Cynthia Mejia, an assistant professor at Rosen College and member of the WHTLF Planning Committee. "Our hope is to make this an annual event that brings women of all ages and experience levels together to discuss the issues that matter to them as they develop their careers."

The Forum will offer networking opportunities, a luncheon and career inspiration. Admission is open to students and hospitality, tourism and event management professionals. Visit hospitality.ucf.edu/womens-leadership-forum to register.

For questions or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Dr. Cynthia Mejia at 407-903-8191 or Cynthia.Mejia@ucf.edu.

About the UCF Rosen College of Hospitality Management

The Rosen College of Hospitality Management at the University of Central Florida, located in Orlando, provides students with an unrivaled opportunity to learn and work in the heart of hospitality. Ranked in the top three hospitality management programs worldwide, Rosen College has been an educational leader for over 30 years. Uniquely positioned in America's top tourism destination, we educate the next generation of industry leaders through internationally-recognized faculty, innovative academic programs, cutting-edge research and strong industry and community partnerships. To learn more, visit hospitality.ucf.edu.