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Arizona Launches Hospitality Management Apprenticeships

PHOENIX, AZ (November 15, 2017) – Across Arizona, business owners in the hospitality industry have a new resource for finding, training and retaining top talent with the first-ever Hospitality Management Registered Apprenticeships. The State of Arizona via the Arizona Apprenticeship Office at the Department of Economic Security (DES), the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA), the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and the Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association (AzLTA) are pleased to join together to grow Arizona’s workforce.

Registered Apprenticeship is an employer-driven model that combines on-the-job learning with related educational instruction to increase skill level and economic mobility. Apprenticeships are a proven solution for companies to recruit, train, and retain highly skilled workers—and it is a way to put employees on a career path that will encourage them to stay and advance in hospitality-sector jobs.

“The Department of Economic Security is proud to partner in this endeavor that will create the first registered apprenticeship career opportunity in the hospitality industry in Arizona,” said DES Director Michael Traylor. “The DES Apprenticeship Office strives to expand apprenticeship programs into all industries to meet the needs of Arizona’s diverse job seekers and employers.”

“These apprenticeships will provide a framework for building a necessary pipeline of skilled employees,” said Kim Sabow of the Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association. “Companies who have utilized apprenticeship programs report higher productivity, retention rates, and a substantial return on investment. That’s important because finding and keeping top industry talent is critical to delivering world-class visitor experiences in our hotel and resort businesses.”

In his recent proclamation for Arizona Apprenticeship Week, Governor Doug Ducey emphasized the importance of apprenticeship training programs in the development of a skilled workforce.

With more than 50-percent of hotel General Managers and many in the C-Suite starting their careers in entry-level positions, the hotel industry has a long tradition of grooming talent and growing careers, supporting some 8 million jobs across the United States and paying \$74 billion in wages.

“The intent with the program is to help grow the ‘bench strength’ of our industry by cultivating and developing new supervisors into management positions,” said Shelly Weir, Senior Vice-President of Career Development for the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Foundation. “It’s a win-win for both business and the employee, resulting in increased employee retention for operators and illuminating career advancement for staff.”

The Hospitality Sector Registered Apprenticeships are the result of a project to ensure the education marketplace is further connected to the needs of the lodging and restaurant industry. In partnership with the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) and Jobs for the Future (JFF), AHLA received a [\\$1.8 million award from the Department of Labor](#) to create and implement career opportunities through registered apprenticeship.

Arizona's Hospitality Management Apprenticeship Program will be formally announced on [Tuesday, November 21 during the Valley Hotel & Resort Association's annual Career Day](#) at the DoubleTree by Hilton Resort, Scottsdale-Paradise Valley. For additional information, please contact David Drennon, AzLTA Executive Vice President, at 602-604-0729 or ddrennon@azlta.com.

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About the Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association

The Arizona Lodging & Tourism Association (AzLTA) is the leading public policy advocate for Arizona's Lodging and Tourism Industries. Representing more than 95,000 guest rooms at statewide hotels and resorts, tourism attractions, destination marketing organizations, sports teams, airlines, airports and related business partners, the AzLTA is focused on advocacy, collaboration and education in support of strengthening industry in Arizona. For more information, visit www.azlta.com.

About the American Hotel & Lodging Association

Serving the hospitality industry for more than a century, the American Hotel & Lodging Association (AHLA) is the sole national association representing all segments of the 8 million jobs the U.S. lodging industry supports, including hotel owners, REITs, chains, franchisees, management companies, independent properties, bed and breakfasts, state hotel associations, and industry suppliers. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., AHLA focuses on strategic advocacy, communications support, and educational resources for an industry that advances long-term career opportunities for employees, invests in local communities across the country and hosts more than one billion guests' stays in American hotels every year. AHLA proudly represents a dynamic hotel industry of more than 54,000 properties that supports \$1.1 trillion in U.S. sales and contributes nearly \$170 billion to the U.S. economy. Learn more at www.AHLA.com.

About the Arizona Apprenticeship Office

The Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) Apprenticeship Office is the state registration agency for registering apprenticeship programs in Arizona. There are 145 registered apprenticeship programs and more than 3,300 apprentices currently participating in apprenticeship programs throughout the state. The Apprenticeship Office partners with DES and ARIZONA@WORK employment specialists to connect Arizona job seekers to apprenticeship opportunities in Arizona.