

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# 2016 MFHA AFRICAN AMERICAN/BLACK LEADERSHIP AD PAYS TRIBUTE TO A RECORD 46 HONOREES



 Philip Holman VP, President & COO CINTAS	 Curtis Bruce CEO, US Sales The Daily Bread KELLOGG COMPANY	 Victor Crawford COO, Southeast ARMARK	 D. Chip Wade SVP, Sales REDLOBSTER	 Chris Carr SVP, President of Sales, US & Mexico STARBUCKS COFFEE COMPANY	 Horacio G. Gonzalez, Sr. SVP, National Sales & Operations REDLOBSTER	 Roy C. Jackson SVP, National Sales & Marketing Affairs COCA-COLA NORTH AMERICA	 Mona Perry SVP, Sales & Marketing CRACKER INTERNATIONAL	
 Jeff Davis SVP & Chief Financial Officer DURDEN	 Andrew Robinson SVP, Sales, North & South America CRACKER USA	 Brenda Carmichael SVP & Chief People Officer CRACKER BUNNEL	 Kerrie Lindsay SVP, Sales Low-Cost Division DURDEN	 Pat Harris Chief COO & VP, Global Commercial Operations MCDONALD'S CORPORATION	 Robert C. McClure, Ed.D. SVP, Campus President JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY	 Larry Rea, Ed.D. Vice President President JOHNSON & WALES UNIVERSITY	 Kim Davis Vice President GOLDEN CORNELL	 Roger MacIntyre Chief Financial Officer TENN ESSEE, INC.
 Sheldon Ross CEO HOSPITALITY SOLUTIONS	 Maximo Gomez Executive VP & Chief Officer MCDONALD'S CORPORATION	 Julius W. Robinson VP & General Manager Atlanta-Charlotte Area MARKETT HOTELS	 Candice Hyman VP, People Operations - Midwest STARBUCKS COFFEE COMPANY	 Tamarla Blackwell VP - People Operations SONIC DRIVE-IN	 Thomas Gentry VP, People Operations DENNY'S	 Denise Ford VP, People & Talent Management BOEBO	 W. Elliott Stuyvesant, Sr. VP, Human Resources SEN E. HIRTH	 Rodney Gilbert VP, Community Affairs CHECK-FIX-IT
 Thomas Pitts VP, Training & Development Chief Sales Officer CRACKER BUNNEL	 Quinn Crumrine VP, Sales & Service & Field Sales TOFFEE TGIFRIDAYS	 Antonio D. Hunter VP & President BOEBO M&C	 Christina Oltman VP, Customer & Marketing Solutions CHECK-FIX-IT	 Bobby Jones VP, People Operations SONIC DRIVE-IN	 Janis Greene Sr. VP, Business Development & Marketing TURN BRANDS, INC.	 Sean Cook VP, Sales & Marketing DTG	 Walter A. Wright Regional VP, Customer Relationship ARMARK	 Glenn Robinson Regional VP, Marketing Operations CONFUSE GROUP
 Charley Wright Regional VP, Operations LOCAL SEA FOOD, LLC	 Vance Emery Regional VP, Sales Operations CONFUSE GROUP	 Matthew Francis Sr. Director, Customer Relationship PEP-KOD	 Erica Quella SVP, People Operations MARKET SCORES	 Ronald Harris Area Vice President of Americas FRESHVILLE USA	 Kevin Williams, Sr. Executive VP, Sales & Marketing CITY OF & SE SPRINGER	 Cliff Charles Executive VP, Sales & Marketing GORDON FOOD SERVICE	 Charlie Rudolph Executive VP, Sales Operations AMERICAN BLUE WISER HOLDINGS	 Tyron Hill Director of Marketing BOB DAINE

PROVIDENCE (February 12, 2016)- If the MFHA Multicultural Leadership Tribute ad is one of the foodservice & hospitality industry's indicators of senior leadership diversity, the average 49% increase in honorees over the past 5 years on the African American/Black tribute, is an encouraging sign. This 2016, MFHA completes the tribute with its largest number of participation at 46 honorees, with job titles ranging from President to Director. The honorees represent American Blue Ribbon Holdings, Aramark, Ben E. Keith, Brinker, Bob Evans Farms, Chick-fil-A, Cintas, The Coca-Cola Company, Compass Group, Cracker Barrel, Darden, Denny's, Golden Corral, Firehouse Subs, Gordon Food Service, Hospitality Solutions Group, Johnson & Wales University, Kellogg Company, Legal Seafoods, Marriott International, McDonald's Corp, OTG, PepsiCo, Red Lobster, Sodexo, Starbucks Coffee Company, TGI Fridays, and YUM! Brands.

MFHA is the recognized acronym for The Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance, the only non-profit association that focuses on building Cultural Intelligence for the collective foodservice & hospitality industry. Since 2010, MFHA has been publishing tribute ads during the different Heritage months, to recognize multicultural talent in senior leadership positions. It has also added a Multicultural Allies edition in 2012, to recognize multicultural talent career advocates.

"We are certainly happy in seeing increased participation each year. If space were limitless, we would have had more; it's certainly a nice problem to have," shares MFHA President & Founder, Gerry A. Fernandez. Gerry conceived the tribute ad after being inspired by the late Ernest "Ernie" H. Royal, former NRA Board Member, who overcame discrimination and opened a restaurant that became one of New England's most celebrated dining places.

MFHA has been advocating for careers for people of color in the foodservice & hospitality industry since 1996. Adds Gerry: "We have always known that career opportunities in this industry are highly likely. As an industry, we simply have to do better at promoting career success stories that are authentic and relatable. A lot more work needs to be done to attract top multicultural talent and to ensure that their career development is at the forefront of the industry's human resources and training agenda. There are also more players, more brands in the industry today that are just beginning their Diversity & Inclusion initiatives. These companies need guidance and encouragement in moving in the right direction. This is where MFHA can help."

For information on how your executives can be part of the MFHA Multicultural Leadership Tribute ad, call 401-461-6342 or email [lfitz@mfha.net](mailto:lfitz@mfha.net).

The 2016 Black tribute, as well as other Heritage ads, may be downloaded from:

<http://www.mfha.net/multicultural-leadership/>

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The Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance (MFHA), is an educational non-profit that delivers multicultural solutions and services to its members, helping maximize business opportunities in the workplace and marketplace. MFHA helps raise the topline, improve the bottom-line and create an authentic brand by helping build Members' Cultural Intelligence. To learn more about how MFHA is helping its members and the industry in this growing multicultural market, visit [www.mfha.net](http://www.mfha.net) or emailing [info@mfha.net](mailto:info@mfha.net).