

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Record 35 Honorees from Foodservice & Hospitality for MFHA's 2015 Hispanic Leadership Multicultural Tribute



2015 Tribute to Hispanic Leadership in Foodservice & Hospitality

THESE ARE THE **BRAND LEADERS** THAT ARE COMMITTED TO CREATING MULTICULTURAL OPPORTUNITIES

 Rick Cardenas Chief Strategy Officer Darden Restaurants	 Eriquez Ramirez Chief Executive Officer Frost Hel TUMI BRANDS	 Doug Milanes Chief Supply Darden Restaurants	 Ray Miragosa District President Region 3 Galaxy Cruise	 Natalia Franco V.P. & Chief Strategy Brand Officer California Pizza Kitchen	 Ben Perez Chief Sales/Marketing Officer The Coca-Cola Company	 Roberto Rivero Chief Marketing Officer PepsiCo Foodservice
 Humberto Carron SVP Operations Sonic Restaurants, Inc.	 Homero Ortigas SVP of Strategic Initiatives Brinker	 Rick Rosenthal SVP & Deputy General Counsel Compass Group	 Lafayette Nelson SVP National Accounts Europe Sobevo	 Stephanie Sebato Partnership Chief Product Marketing Officer, Taco Bell TUMI BRANDS	 Adam Salgado U.S. VP Multicultural Marketing McDonald's Corp.	 Carlos Ribera VP Marketing & Strategy Greater Los Angeles & California Region The Wendy's Company
 Ralph Gali Taco Bell Service Restaurants VP, Global Accounts Echols	 Javier Casas VP & Global General Manager Marriott International	 Edithann Ramirez VP of Marketing D&B Child & Co. Brinker	 Dolores Belkiss Regional VP Healthcare Sobeeo	 Ramon Alvarez Regional VP Business Development Arnsbach	 Paul Viqueira Regional VP Operations Red Lobster	 Miguel Lazara Regional VP Los Angeles Central Starbucks
 Isamara Mourad SVP of Diversity Partnership Officer Johnson & Wales University	 Philip Malinowski Sr. Director International Operations Mingogoy	 Benoist Marquisse Sr. Director Brand Management Red Lobster	 Merita Torres Pizar Sr. Director Global Franchise Services Dunkin' Brands	 Dato Gvazdaridze Global Strategy Starbucks	 Isabel Riquelme Country Manager & Development Officer SABSA Group of Companies	 Grisol Vega Director of Strategic Initiatives Marriott International
 Alex Gonzalez-Rivera Director of Training Denny's	 Kavon Torgio Field Marketing Director Dunkin' Brands	 Jackie Rodriguez Director of Global Recruiting & Compensation TGI Fridays	 Katherine Jimenez Market Director of Human Resources Marriott International	 Chris Rodriguez Sr. Financial Analyst Bob Evans Farms	 Aracelis Solares Area Representative (Charly River) Polarisone Sals	 Eric Martinez Franchisee Denny's

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PROVIDENCE (September 29, 2014) – This year's Hispanic Leadership Tribute, a print ad produced by [MFHA](#) to honor its members and appearing in [Nation's Restaurant News \(NRN\)](#) every Heritage month, features a record 35 honorees from foodservice and hospitality. Since the launch of the Hispanic Leadership Ad in 2010, the number of participating companies has increased every year. The 2015 ad shows a 45.8% increase in senior leadership of Hispanic heritage, over the 2014 ad that featured 24 honorees. "The fact that we are seeing a large increase in the number of participating companies is good news for our industry," said Gerry Fernandez, President of MFHA. "We need to showcase our leaders as a way to attract more diversity to our industry."

Participating for the first time with their honorees are BAMA Group, Brinker International, California Pizza Kitchen, Firehouse Subs, Johnson & Wales University, Red Lobster, Sonic Restaurants, Inc., TGI Fridays, and Wingstop. Other members recognized are Aramark, Bob Evans Farms, Coca-Cola, Compass Group, Darden, Denny's, Dunkin' Brands, Ecolab, Golden Corral, Marriott International, McDonald's Corp., PepsiCo, YUM! Brands, Sodexo, Starbucks, and The Wendy's Company.

The 2015 Tribute to Hispanic Heritage can be found under Hispanic Leaders in Hospitality: http://www.mfha.net/files/ads/MFHA_2015_LatinoTribute_web_09-29_v2.pdf

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The Multicultural Foodservice & Hospitality Alliance (MFHA)

MFHA is an educational non-profit that helps build Cultural Intelligence for its members by delivering better business results. MFHA provides solutions that build the topline, improve the bottom-line and build culturally authentic brand value. Learn more about MFHA at www.mfha.net.