

## Nominees for the 2017 Stars of Washington Lodging Awards are announced



The Stars Awards have a long and hallowed tradition at both the national level through the American Hotel & Lodging Association and here in Washington State, where the lodging community has been celebrating Stars winners since 1999.

The awards program honors the truly exceptional professionals who exemplify the very best in Washington lodging, providing memorable guest experiences, contributing to the success of their co-workers, and making a difference in their communities. Washington Hospitality Association members submitted nominations for the Stars nominees listed below.

This year's Stars of Washington Lodging Awards are sponsored by UnitedHealthcare, and winners will be recognized at an awards dinner on Oct. 23 during the Washington Lodging Convention at Tulalip Resort Casino. Categories may have up to two winners for full and limited service properties, and winners will go on to represent Washington at AHLA's 2018 Stars of the Industry Awards, except in the Washington-only category of Lodging Manager of the Year.

Congratulations to an outstanding group of Stars!

### **EMERGING LEADER OF THE YEAR**

This award recognizes emerging leaders in hospitality who energize the industry with fresh ideas and inspire others around them. It will be present to an exemplary professional under the age of 30 who demonstrates out-of-the-box thinking and is dedicated to the hospitality craft. Nominees are:

- Paula Buck, Front Office Supervisor, Courtyard by Marriott Richland Columbia Point
- Jamilla Dixon, Breakfast Attendant, Hampton Inn & Suites by Hilton Seattle/Northgate
- Austin Dudley, General Manager, Candlewood Suites Burlington

## **LODGING EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**

These employees are non-management superstars who drive our industry every single day to make it great. They go above and beyond, making guests feel special, helping fellow employees and engaging with the local community. Nominees for both full and limited service are:

- **Jacob Catrain, Front Desk Agent, La Quinta Inn & Suites Seattle**
- **Eduardo Cortes, Breakfast Attendant, La Quinta Inn & Suites Seattle**
- **Angela Grant, Front Desk Supervisor, Canterbury Inn, Ocean Shores**
- **Dylan Jones, Guest Services Representative, Holiday Inn Express & Suites – Pullman**
- **Jianzhen Li, Restaurant Server, The Westin Bellevue**
- **Cindy Luong, Food and Beverage Supervisor, Hilton Garden Inn Seattle Downtown**
- **Martha Montes, Bartender, SpringHill Suites by Marriott – Kennewick/Tri-Cities**
- **Melanie Nederhood, Front Desk Agent, Candlewood Suites, Burlington**
- **Siddhartha Pattanayak, House Person, Hilton Garden Inn Kennewick**
- **Josh Woollett, Guest Services Supervisor, The Davenport Hotels, Spokane**

## **LODGING MANAGER OF THE YEAR**

Here in Washington we have a long tradition of honoring the managers who stand out as exceptional leaders. These managers live and breath hospitality, and as superstar leaders they help employees and their departments reach their full potential as they create great guest experiences.

- **Lydia David, Director of Housekeeping, SpringHill & TownePlace Suites Bellingham**
- **Mario Guerrero, Chief Engineer, Homewood Suites – Issaquah**
- **Markie Hamlin, Hotel Controller, Embassy Suites by Hilton Seattle-Tacoma International Airport**
- **Renea Johnson, Executive Housekeeper, Hilton Garden Inn Seattle/Bothell**
- **Mustika Katon, Director of Housekeeping, Hilton Garden Inn Seattle Downtown**
- **Vanessa Polson, Guest Service Manager, Holiday Inn Express Spokane Downtown**
- **Holly Reichenbach, Sales & Catering Manager, Hilton Garden Inn – Issaquah**
- **Tom Summers, Chief Engineer, Hampton Inn & Suites Burlington**

## **GENERAL MANAGER OF THE YEAR**

The finest hoteliers see the big picture while also looking after all the small details that make their vision a reality. These individuals have risen through the ranks to exemplify all the best attributes of our industry. They are managers who reach out to guests, inspire employees and extend themselves to the broader community.

- **Warren Beach, General Manager at Holiday Inn Express & Suites Everett and VP Of Operations, SMJ Management**
- **Todd Chaput, Regional General Manager, Holiday Inn Express & Suites Chehalis**
- **Sean O'Rourke, General Manager, Courtyard Seattle Downtown Lake Union**

## PAVING THE WAY AWARD

This new award honors the amazing women of our industry, woman who are leaders in their businesses, role models in the community and mentors committed to raising up those around them. Their reach extends beyond the day-to-day and resonates through their properties, their communities and the industry.

- Julie Cohen, Regional General Manager, Holiday Inn Express Downtown Spokane/Sterling Hospitality
- Carla Murray, Senior Vice President, Marriott International
- Kelly Robinson, General Manager, Best Western Plus Park Place Inn & Suites Chehalis
- Freyda Stephens, General Manager, Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel
- Denise Vickerman, General Manager, Ramada at Spokane Airport
- Janyce Volodkevich, Area Director of People and Culture, Kimpton Hotels Seattle