

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **The California Hotel & Lodging Association Education Foundation Awards the 2004 Scholarship Recipients**

SACRAMENTO - Luis C. Barrios, president of the California Hotel & Lodging Association Educational Foundation and General Manager of the Wyndham San Diego at Emerald Plaza, announced that the Foundation has awarded a number of scholarships for the 2004-2005 academic year. After reviewing a large number of applications and conducting interviews of eligible applicants, the Foundation awarded Christina Hepner of San Luis Obispo, Valerie Hofer of Lakeside and Michael Infusino of Morro Bay its Working Professional Scholarships for \$1,000 each. The Foundation also awarded Sergey Rabeshko, who is employed by the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento, its Richard Schroeck Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 for the upcoming academic year.

“It was a difficult choice to make, because a great many of the applicants proved they were indeed worthy of the California Hotel & Lodging Association Educational Foundation’s scholarships,” said Barrios.

The Working Professional Scholarship program is dedicated to individuals who are working in hotels or inns, and who want additional education in order to expand their job skills and career potential.

The Foundation's Richard Schroeck Scholarship is a special program reserved solely for hourly employees of hotels and inns who work in maintenance or engineering capacities. The scholarships can also be used by the dependents of these employees. "Sergey Rabeshko is a perfect example of the type of employee whom the Schroeck Scholarship was intended to benefit," said Barrios. "Here is a young man who served in the Russian army and learned mechanical skills working in mines before coming to the United States, and he is now performing maintenance and engineering functions in one of Sacramento's premier hotels and working on an electrical engineering degree at the same time."

The California Hotel & Lodging Association's Educational Foundation, which has created the well-known "We Welcome Service Animals" education and outreach program for the hospitality industry, also makes awards from its General Scholarship program. This type of scholarship is intended for students in two- or four-year programs in hotel management.

The California Hotel & Lodging Association (CH&LA) is the largest state lodging industry trade association in the country. Its 1,400 member properties, which comprise more than 170,000 guest rooms, consists of hotels, motels, bed and breakfast inns, guest ranches, resorts, spas, condominium rentals, timeshares, and vacation home rentals located throughout California. CH&LA's mission is to be the "indispensable resource for communicating and protecting the rights and interests of the California lodging industry, and for supporting strategic alliances to promote the value of California travel and tourism." Sacramento-based CH&LA has been representing California's lodging industry for more than a century.

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