



HAWDC e-HEADLINES

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Conrad Washington D.C. to Host the HAWDC 2019 Stars of the Industry Awards, Sponsored by USI Insurance:



HAWDC will hold its Annual Stars of the Industry Awards Luncheon on:

**Friday, November 22, 2019
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm
Conrad Washington D.C.
950 New York St, NW
Washington, DC 20001**

Each year, the Stars of the Industry Awards showcase individuals and properties that have excelled throughout the hospitality and lodging industry. We will be honoring individuals and properties that have displayed outstanding accomplishments, service, and leadership in our industry! The awards luncheon will be proudly sponsored by USI Insurance ("USI"). USI's support will go towards giving scholarships to college-bound graduates interested in pursuing careers in hospitality.

Join us at the recently opened hotel, Conrad Washington D.C., to celebrate the talent and performance of employees and properties who go that extra mile to provide extraordinary service to their hotel guests. Members and guests will mix-n-mingle during our reception, where you will feast on hor d'oeuvres and delicious food at various chef stations. The awards presentation will immediately follow the reception.

We are sure that you won't want to miss this event as we celebrate the best of the best!

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Upcoming Events:

Thursday, October 24th:

The HAWDC Human Resource Directors Association Meeting will be held in the West Conference Room at 1201 New York Avenue NW, Washington D.C. 20005 from 9:00 am - 10:30 am. Contact [Vanessa Peters](#) to RSVP.

Friday, November 22:

The Stars of the Industry Awards Luncheon will be held at the Conrad Washington D.C. at 950 New York Ave, NW 20001 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Please contact [Ejigayehu Diriba](#) to RSVP.

Staff Directory:

Please see Upcoming Events to RSVP.

DOES Hospitality Training Program for Veteran Recruitment Profile:

In October 2018, HAWDC hosted a Hospitality Industry Veterans Engagement Panel which sought to better engage veterans in Washington D.C. in the hotel workforce, expose the wealth of opportunities that exist within the hospitality industry that may interest veterans, and to bridge the gap between the experience and skill-sets typically ascribed to veterans and career opportunities in the industry.

The Department of Employment Services (D.O.E.S) in partnership with the Hotel Association of Washington D.C. officially announced the Hospitality Training Program for Veterans this past June. The paid training program consists of three weeks of classroom instruction; two weeks of Work Readiness Training; and 90 days of hands-on work experience at one of the District's leading hotels. With the leadership of Sheri Swain, General Manager of the Holiday Inn Capitol and HAWDC Board Chair, veterans like Roland Gutierrez have been able to secure a full-time job in an industry that checks all his boxes.

In his current role, Roland Gutierrez works as a guest services professional as a part of the front office staff. Mr. Gutierrez served in the Navy and then went on to work for the Department of Defense as a contractor, doing radar operations for 13 years. In his previous position working as a Veterans Employment Specialist, Mr. Gutierrez found that many of veterans, primarily those with disabilities, had wanted to give up when seeking employment. He recommends that veterans interested in this program jump on the opportunity to gain the certification offered that adds to their value in the workplace and gain the training needed to seamlessly integrate back into civilian society.

"Being 57 and having raised three children, this job checks all the boxes for me right now. Everybody that I work with, up to Sheri Swain, is so wonderful and that counts for a lot. I've worked in toxic work environments and so I really appreciate the fact that [Holiday Inn Capitol] took me in after such a short time. I seem to be catching on well, almost like I was made for this job." -- Roland Gutierrez, Front Office Associate, Holiday Inn Capitol.

Thank you to Sheri Swain for her leadership and vision on this initiative. HAWDC wishes the best of luck to Roland! We look forward to highlighting additional success stories about veterans recruited from this training program.

Pictured (right): Roland Gutierrez, Front Office Associate, Holiday Inn Capitol

Allied Member Spotlight:

Ideal Electrical Supply Corporation, T/A Ideal Electric, is a full-service wholesale distributor of electrical, industrial and telecommunications infrastructure products. Ideal also serves its diverse clientele by providing commodities such as street pavement marking tape, pedestrian street signs, safety products and water works products, which includes water meters, water meter parts and pumps.

Founded in 1991, Ideal Electric is an authorized distributor for more than

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200 major manufacturers. The company has a full-time staff of more than 20 employees; a 25,000-square-foot secured and bonded warehouse at its headquarters located in Washington, D.C.; a satellite facility in Lanham, Md.; a state-of-the-art, integrated accounting and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system and a company-owned fleet of delivery vehicles.

For more information, please contact CEO, Cora Williams or visit <http://www.idealelectric.com>.



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