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CAROL DOVER, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE FLORIDA RESTAURANT & LODGING ASSOCIATION TO RECEIVE THE BEACON AWARD

Award to be Presented by Foodservice Council for Women at Florida Restaurant & Lodging Show

Orlando, FL August 14, 2017 – The Florida Restaurant & Lodging Show is pleased to honor Carol Dover, President & Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association, as the 2017 Florida Restaurant & Lodging Show Beacon Award Honoree. The Beacon Award, which was created to recognize a woman leader who has truly served as a Beacon to the industry through their leadership, contributions and inspiration, will be presented on Sunday, September 10 at 2:00pm in the Center Stage Theater on the show floor.

Carol B. Dover has served as President/CEO of the more than 10,000 member Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association (FRLA) since July of 1995. Dover is a professional association manager, a lobbyist, a former government insider, and a Florida State University Dedman School of Hospitality graduate with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management.



“The Foodservice Council for Women is dedicated to recognizing the talented women in this industry. Women like Carol Dover bring innovation and exceptional leadership to the field,” said Kathleen Wood, Founder, The Foodservice Council for Women. “We are proud to present Carol Dover the Beacon Award.”

As the FRLA’s President/CEO, Dover works to protect, educate, and promote the diverse interests of Florida’s hospitality industry before the Florida Legislature and lobbying against unfair government regulation. The industry represents a \$108.8 billion industry, \$11.3 billion in local and state tax revenue, and nearly 1.4 million employees, making it the state’s number one industry. Dover also serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Restaurant Association, Council of State Restaurant Associations, International Society of Hotel Association Executives, VISIT

FLORIDA, Florida State University College of Business Board of Governors, Florida TaxWatch and the Florida Agriculture Center and Horse Park.

“The Beacon Award presentation is an important part of the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Show, recognizing and celebrating the outstanding achievements of our colleagues is our opportunity to promote diversity and ingenuity in the industry,” says Tom Loughran, Event Director. “Carol’s efforts to advocate for the hospitality and tourism industries in Florida are unmatched and deliver far-reaching benefits to restaurant and lodging owners and operators across the state. We whole-heartedly agree with the Foodservice Council for Women’s nomination -- there was no better leader to honor this year.”

In addition to the Beacon Award, the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Show will offer dozens of special events, world class culinary competitions, 30 free education sessions which are part of the Ferdinand Foodservice Forum and over 450 exhibiting companies offering the news products and services as well as the Food Trend Experience; Beer, Wine & Spirits Pavilion; Rapid Fire Challenge, ACF Culinary Arts Competitions, and much more. For additional information about the Show, visit <http://www.flrestaurantandlodgingshow.com>.

About The Foodservice Council for Women

Now in its 6th year, the Foodservice Council for Women is a networking organization that connects and promotes women leaders locally and builds connections nationally. Throughout the year three high energy panels are held at the International Restaurant & Foodservice Show of New York, Florida Restaurant & Lodging Show, and Western Foodservice & Hospitality Expo. These dynamic conversations feature winning industry leaders sharing their insights, resources and "secrets" for winning in today's competitive marketplace.

About the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association (FRLA)

FRLA is Florida’s premier non-profit hospitality industry trade association. Our mission is to ‘Protect, Educate and Promote’ Florida’s \$108.8 billion hospitality industry which represents 1.4 million employees – making it the state’s number one industry. We offer regulatory compliance and food safety training needs ([RCS Training](#) and [SafeStaff®](#)); industry developed career-building high school programs ([FRLAEF](#)); sponsor the only event in Florida exclusively serving the restaurant and foodservice industry ([FR&L Show](#), September 10-12, 2017 in Orlando); and we safeguard the needs of the hospitality industry by providing legislative advocacy. We represent and serve more than 10,000 independent and household name members, suppliers, and theme parks.

The 2017 Florida Restaurant & Lodging Show is sponsored by the Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association (www.frla.org). For more information on exhibiting or attending, visit the official Show website at www.flrestaurantandlodgingshow.com. The tradeshow and conference is produced by Urban Expositions, now operating as Clarion UX and owned by Clarion Events, which produces and manages a portfolio of 36 trade and consumer events, serving a range of industry sectors including Gift, Souvenir, Art, Foodservice, Specialty Retail, Gaming, Automotive and Enthusiast Lifestyle, with offices in Kennesaw, GA, Chicago, IL, Trumbull, CT, Portland, OR, and Boca Raton, FL (www.urban-expo.com).

ABOUT CLARION EVENTS -- Clarion Events operates over 180 events in 50 countries from offices in the UK, South Africa, USA, Brazil, Germany, Singapore, UAE, and the Netherlands. Clarion can trace its roots back to 1947 and takes great pride in being one of the oldest independent event organizers in the UK. More recently the firm has developed an international portfolio of brands and now has interests in a number of global vertical industries. The teams at Clarion create uniquely

effective and stimulating environments that can serve as a platform to build businesses, enhance customer relationships and accelerate product awareness. www.clarionevents.com

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Registered press are invited to the presentation of the Beacon Award for a photo opportunity. For more information on attending the show and securing media badges, please contact Amy Riemer at 978-502-4895 (cell) or amy@riemercommunications.com.