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ESPA Recognizes Exemplary Meetings Professionals

Recipients Receive Accolades for Their Dedication and Leadership

PRINCETON JUNCTION, NJ - March 24, 2014 - Dedicated to elevating the event and convention services profession, the Event Service Professionals Association (ESPA), has announced the winners of its fifth annual Convention Services Manager (CSM) of the Year Award, Executive Excellence Award and the Meeting Professional of the Year Award.

Presented in conjunction with *Successful Meetings* magazine, the 2013 CSM of the Year Award winners are: Gregory Halka, Borgata Hotel Casino and Spa; Zack Davis, CMP, Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau and Kimberly Kreml. Each of these individuals were nominated by meeting planners and were recognized for their ability to provide the highest level of service and support for the execution of their events.

ESPA presented Barbara Stone, CTA, Fort Worth Conventions and Visitors Bureau, with the 2013 Executive Excellence Award. This award recognizes an executive for their commitment and dedication to the event services profession. This person also provides key support and leadership to members of their services team. Stone was selected because the level of service she exemplifies inspires her team to strive for excellence. She encourages her team to get involved through webinars and event participation and is always spreading the word about ESPA to other industry partners.

The 2013 Meeting Professional of the Year Award recipient is Natasha Ross, Association of Air Medical Services. Ross was recognized for her personal and professional characteristics in creating an environment that focuses on team work as well as shows partnership with event services management. She was selected because of her knowledge of the industry, her enthusiasm, attention to detail and her professionalism in partnering with ESPA to execute a complex event.

“It is an honor to recognize such deserving individuals who strive to achieve excellence in all they do,” said Julie Pingston, CMP, CTA, ESPA President. “This group of professionals exemplify what it takes to produce meaningful and engaging meetings.”

For more information on these awards, visit www.espaonline.org.

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About ESPA

With nearly 500 members, the Event Service Professionals Association (ESPA) is dedicated to elevating the event and convention services profession and to preparing members, through education and networking, for their pivotal role in innovative and successful event execution. For more information, visit www.espaonline.org.