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OREGON'S 2009 LODGING AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Statewide Awards Recognize Lodging Leaders

Oregon Lodging Association (OLA) has announced the Stars of the Industry Award recipients for 2009: Innkeeper of the Year – Wendy Higgins of The Ocean Lodge; Employee of the Year – Parshottam Nadiyadra of the Doubletree Hotel Portland; and Industry Partner of the Year – Jennifer Hatfield of Wholesale Commercial Interiors.

These prestigious awards represent the outstanding performance, commitment and achievements of Oregon's hospitality industry leaders. OLA will present these awards on Monday, October 12, 2009, during the association's conference at the Best Western Hood River Inn. Recipients of the property awards are automatically nominated for the national awards conducted by the American Hotel & Lodging Association.

As general manager of The Ocean Lodge in Cannon Beach, **Wendy Higgins** takes hospitality to a higher level. She instituted a new service standard, "second mile service", where staff go beyond typical guest expectations. Wendy leads by example, setting the tone as a leader not only in her own organization but also in her community. She served as Chamber President and eventually was elected to City Council where she has helped nurture a "voice for the business community". Wendy continues to play a vital role in promoting success in her community by teaching (on her own time) key managers, community members and Hispanic employees the leadership philosophy she learned from the Maxwell Leadership Program.

The employee of the year award recognizes an outstanding employee who goes above and beyond normal job responsibilities. **Parshottam Nadiyadra**, lead houseperson for the Doubletree Hotel Portland, "exemplifies what hospitality is all about" says Steve Faulstick, general manager. He's known as someone with an incredible work ethic, unremitting positive attitude and generous heart for his community. He also inspires other employees to be better at what they do. Parshottam regularly volunteers his time to local charities and serves on various committees including a line level-generated group that plans the hotel's outreach efforts.

As principal and owner of Wholesale Commercial Interiors (WCI), **Jennifer Hatfield** has earned her company a reputation of being one of the top 35 hospitality design firms in the U.S. Her industry-specific knowledge has given them the edge in servicing clients ranging from national franchises to boutique hotels. Jennifer's participation and affiliation with community and hospitality organizations lend to her expertise and leadership in the industry. Her vision for the future is to encourage more "young and brilliant design minds with passionate talent to take the company to another level of excellence".

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Oregon Lodging Association is a state-wide trade organization representing hotels, motels, resorts, bed-and-breakfasts, vacation rental properties, recreational vehicle parks, and related hospitality businesses. We are the primary legislative advocate and business resource for Oregon's lodging industry.