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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association Recognizes
18 Employees of the Year at 70th Annual Conference**

Nov. 3, 2008, Denver, ... The Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association (CH&LA) is honored to recognize 18 industry employees at its 70th Annual Conference at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colo. on Thurs., Oct. 30, 2008. Employees were nominated by their managers and represent some of the most dedicated individuals in the lodging and tourism industry.

The 2008 Employee of the Year winners in supervisory and non-supervisory are as follows:

- Supervisory - Rooms Operations: Veronika Long**
Assistant Front Office Manager, The Broadmoor (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
- Supervisory - Room Operations: Victor Vazquez**
Chief Engineer, Hotel Teatro (Denver)
- Supervisory - Housekeeping/Laundry: Mariana Salazar**
Weekend Supervisor/Inspector, Sheraton Denver West (Denver)
- Supervisory - Food Service: Mike Edwards**
Conference Services Manager, The Inverness Hotel (Englewood, Colo.)
- Supervisory - Sales and Marketing: Jenni Gaherty**
Director of Sales & Marketing, JW Marriott Denver (Denver)
- Supervisory - Administrative and General: Chris Ramos**
Director of Human Resources, The Inverness Hotel (Englewood, Colo.)
- Supervisory - Spa: Nicole Doerr**
Spa Director, Omni Interlocken Resort (Broomfield, Colo.)
- Supervisory - Bed and Breakfast: Heather Hidalgo**
Assistant Innkeeper, Holden House (Colorado Springs, Colo.)
- Supervisory - Other: Michelle Thom**
Director of Operations, The Strater Hotel (Durango, Colo.)

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Non-Supervisory - Rooms Operations: Debra Nahm

Regency Club Concierge, Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center (Denver)

Non-Supervisory - Rooms Operations: Christopher Gbenado

Mighty Maintain Engineer, Loews Denver Hotel (Denver)

Non-Supervisory - Housekeeping/Laundry: Enrique Castillo

Housekeeper, Keystone Resort (Keystone, Colo.)

Non-Supervisory - Food Service: John Henry Armstrong

Cook, Warwick Denver Hotel (Denver)

Non-Supervisory - Sales and Marketing: Nilofer Merchant

Sales Manager, Denver Marriott City Center (Denver)

Non-Supervisory - Administrative and General: Nancy Stackpole

Income Auditor, Hyatt Regency DTC (Denver)

Non-Supervisory - Spa: Keith Hermann

Trainer/Fitness Instructor, Peaks Resort & Golden Door Spa (Telluride, Colo.)

Non-Supervisory - Other: Susan Little

Pro Shop Attendant, Millennium Harvest House Boulder (Boulder, Colo.)

This year marked the inauguration of two special awards, the **Lifetime Dedication Award** and the **Green Hospitality Award**. The Lifetime Dedication Award was presented to Jack Wilber, Guest Services Host at The Broadmoor in Colorado Springs, Colo. The Green Hospitality Award was presented to Westin Tabor Center in Denver.

Employee of the Year award nomination forms were sent to all 400 CH&LA members statewide. The nominations received were reviewed and scored by the awards committee, which is composed of a cross-section of industry professionals, from hoteliers to vendors. Winners received a crystal award as well as complimentary stay for two at another CH&LA member hotel or resort. The winner's names are also submitted for consideration to the hospitality industry's national awards - the American Hotel & Lodging Association's "Stars of the Industry Awards." The non-winning nominees were recognized as well, with a certificate of congratulations.

The Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association has more than 400 members representing more than 40,000 guestrooms throughout the state of Colorado. CH&LA's member properties include romantic bed and breakfast inns, luxury hotels, affordable motels, Colorado ski resorts, Rocky Mountain cabins, rustic guest ranches, relaxing spas, weekend getaway timeshares, and condominium and vacation rental services, ranging in size from three to 1,600 rooms.

The Colorado Hotel & Lodging Association offers visitors the leading searchable database of travel accommodations and vacation lodging in Colorado, from the plains to the Front Range and from the Rocky Mountains to the Western Slope.

All press releases and media materials, including high-resolution photography in a downloadable format, are available via www.kruzic.com.