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Towne Park Hosts Meet & Greet For Hotel Leadership Teams:

HAWDC Allied Member, Towne Park, will be hosting an appreciation luncheon for HAWDC Members. Don't miss your opportunity to network with Members in a fun, relaxing environment! The event will be held at Pinstripes of Georgetown, located at 1064 Wisconsin Avenue, NW on Wednesday, June 24th from 12 pm - 2 pm. Bowling, food and beverages will be provided courtesy of Towne Park! Click [here](#) to RSVP if you or anyone from your team is available to attend.



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Hospitality High School Celebrates Its Final Graduation Ceremony:



Class of 2015 Hospitality High School Students (left to right): Martha Rondon, Robsa Mideksa, Dairius Rojas-Hernandez & Magnim Essolakina.

Last week, Hospitality High School ("HHS") held its commencement ceremony for the last class to graduate from the school. As you are aware, last year, Hospitality High School decided to enter into an historic merger with the District of Columbia Public School ("DCPS") system. All of its remaining students will be entering into the Hospitality and Tourism NAF Academies at 1 of 3 DCPS schools:

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Woodrow Wilson High School, Ballou High School, or Columbia Heights Educational Campus. This merger ensures that the remaining HHS students will be able to receive stellar core academic training, while continuing to explore career paths in hospitality and tourism!

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HAWDC and HHS would like to thank all of our industry partners who have graciously supported the school and the students throughout the years! Each year, volunteers have donated over 5,000 hours of support by serving as mentors for students, guest speakers at events, and giving students hands-on experience through internships and other events such as Groundhog Job Shadow Day. HHS was a viable and sustainable option for District of Columbia students for 17 years only because of the support of our hospitality industry partners!

As HHS prepares to close its doors, we encourage all of our industry partners to continue their support and commitment to the remaining, and future, students that will be attending the DCPS Hospitality and Tourism NAF Academies. This will ensure that the remaining HHS students, and all future students, will reap the benefits that have been so kindly provided to HHS over the years.

HAWDC and HHS would like to thank Meg Bobinski, General Manager at the Marriott Metro Center Hotel, and her team for hosting this year's commencement ceremony!

FTC Workshop on AirBnB:

Last week, the Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") held a workshop on the Sharing Economy, meant to explore the relationship between new ways of providing products and services, and competition, consumer safety, economic growth and regulation. Of importance to the hospitality industry was the issue of AirBnB and short-term online lodging rentals. The American Lodging Association's Senior Vice President and head of Governmental Affairs, Vanessa Sindere, joined a panel discussion with representatives from AirBnB, Uber, National League of Cities, and the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission.

Ms. Sindere's remarks echoed HAWDC's concerns that we have been expressing to the District government: the playing field for all players in the lodging industry must be leveled; anyone renting transient housing to guests must abide by the laws and regulations that protect the health, safety and well-being of all guests, regardless if it's a 500 room traditional hotel or a single proprietor renting out rooms on AirBnB. HAWDC has been working with the District government to make sure that guest safety is balanced with fair economic competition. As customary, we will update you on our efforts.

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