

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MCCSN HONORED SIX WOMEN IN TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY AT 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON



Lft. To Rt.: Peggy Cooper, Moderator; Rebecca Aguilera-Gardiner, Patti Roscoe, Clara Carter, Gina Champion Cain, Sue Botos and Shirley Hirai

*Event Celebrated "Women Leading the Way in Tourism and Hospitality".*

San Diego, March 31, 2017 – More than 260 people attended the Multi-Cultural Convention Services Network's (MCCSN's) 2nd Annual Women in Tourism and Hospitality Luncheon Thursday, March 16 at the Wyndham San Diego Bayside Hotel as MCCSN presented six women with the **Women In Tourism and Hospitality - W.I.T.H AWARDS** for 2017.

MCCSN established the "**W.I.T.H.**" Awards and hosted this event celebrating **Women's History Month** to spotlight the awesome work of visionary leaders in the Tourism and Hospitality industry. "I can't think of a better way to celebrate the achievements, leadership, courage, strength, and tenacity of these six women who have helped build the hospitality industry and shape its future in San Diego, while at the same time inspiring industry professionals and students who we know are going to do great things for the industry down the road." said MCCSN founder Clara Carter. Guests at the luncheon, including tourism executives, industry insiders, renowned guests and students, have coined the term "**WITH IT!**" to express their delight in the concept of the award and the sisterhood embodied within it and the event itself.

The event featured an exhilarating luncheon and awards program that included entertainment by Mariea Antoinette and a pre-recorded video interview with Honoree, Denise Jackson, President, CEO Balboa Travel Management (on business travel). The other five honorees were Patti Roscoe, Founder of PRA Destination Management Company; Rebecca Aguilera-Gardiner, Co-owner Diego & Sons Printing; Gina Champion-Cain, President CEO American National Investments, Inc.; Shirley Hirai, Manager of Equal Opportunity, Port of San Diego; and Sue Botos VP, Community Relations San Diego Padres. These five phenomenal women participated in a panel that motivated, and inspired guests to a better appreciation for the work they do and gave insights into the future of the meetings industry for women.

Special guest, San Diego City Council President Myrtle Cole, gave opening remarks and presented event organizer, Clara Carter with a Special Commendation, and a proclamation naming March 16, 2017 “Clara Carter Day” in the City of San Diego.

“The second annual Luncheon went above and beyond any of our expectations, which is a testament to the support and commitment of the individuals in this dynamic industry”.

“MCCSN is tremendously grateful for the contributions of our supporters and guests who are **“W.I.T.H. IT!”** including the esteemed members of our panel, the 2016 awardees who served as our 2017 honorary committee chairs, and the sponsorship of our partners, Patti Roscoe, Founder of PRA Destination Management Company; Integrits, Integrated Information Technology Solutions; San Diego International Airport; RAR Hospitality; Smart City and Four Points by Sheraton. Thank you for being W.I.T.H. us as we continue this important conversation about Women Leaders in the Hospitality Industry. “

MCCSN looks forward to bringing leaders together again during Women’s History Month 2018. Guests in attendance were unanimous in their enthusiastic testimonials about the event. Guest Sarita Maybin, national speaker and author, said “Congrats on an excellent event [Clara!](#) I enjoyed hearing the words of wisdom from the award recipients on the panel and had fun networking with some wonderful women at my table!” Guest DeWanna Hall Dallas, entrepreneur, echoes those sentiments and stated “Clara, thanks for the invite. What an amazing venue you have created here in San Diego. I reconnected with some old friends. I have to say it was my first-time attending, I was very impressed with everything! I will attend every year....”

MCCSN invites you to get **“W.I.T.H.”** it! and join us for MCCSN’s 2018 celebration of the imagination, inspiration, and innovation of women in the tourism industry as they continue their work to build awareness of the industry through increasing its inclusiveness for women and other minorities; developing talent through education, experiences, and scholarships; and fostering career growth among people who work in the industry.

For more information about MCCSN and the 2017 W.I.T.H. Awards Luncheon, visit [www.mccsn.com](http://www.mccsn.com)

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