

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **MCCSN To Honor Women Defining San Diego's Tourism and Hospitality Industry during Third Annual "W.I.T.H. Awards" Luncheon**

SAN DIEGO, CA February 20, 2018 - The Multi-Cultural Convention Services Network's (MCCSN) annual women's history month celebration will culminate with the MCCSN WITH awards honoring six Women in Tourism and Hospitality. This highly anticipated event will be held Thursday, March 22, 2018 at the Four Points by Sheraton San Diego at 11:15 AM (program starts at 11:45 a.m.) and ends at 1:30 PM.

With its focus on issues relating to women in the workplace at all stages of their careers and the changing landscape of Hospitality and Tourism, MCCSN is the premier organization recognizing the contributions of women professionals in the San Diego metro-area during Women's History Month. The 2018 W.I.T.H. Awards, produced in partnership with MCCSN's sponsors, will continue MCCSN's tradition of honoring well known, respected and influential women at the pinnacle of their careers.

Clara Carter, MCCSN President says "MCCSN is pleased to recognize and give visibility to the extraordinary talent and service of six female executives who are leading the way and making significant contributions to tourism, while empowering tomorrow's leaders. Guests at the luncheon, including tourism executives, industry insiders, renowned guests and students, have coined the term "W.I.T.H. IT!" to express their delight in the concept of the award and the sisterhood embodied within it and the event itself".

The event includes lunch, entertainment and not to be missed surprises, that will delight all in attendance. The award ceremony will be emceed by Carolyn Hollins, of Hollins and Associates and include a panel discussion moderated by Karima Zaki, industry trailblazer and 2016 WITH award recipient. The panel will showcase six amazing women from various tourism market segments, who will share their success journey through a moderated panel discussion that includes audience participation. MCCSN is excited to announce that this year, one recipient will also receive the inaugural "Carol Wallace Lifetime Achievement W.I.T.H. Award".

#### **The 2018 Honorees include:**

- Randa J. Coniglio - President/CEO Port of San Diego
- Dania Duke - General Manager Hilton San Diego Gaslamp
- Marilyn Hannes - Park President, SeaWorld & Aquatica, San Diego
- Deborah Scott - Executive Chef & Partner Cohn Restaurant Group, Coasterra, Indigo Grill, C Level / Island Prime and Vintana
- Barbara Moreno - Executive Director, Communications San Diego Convention Center Corporation and
- Fae Desmond - Executive Director Comic-Con International San Diego and Carol Wallace Lifetime Achievement W.I.T.H. Award recipient.

To read the Honoree, moderator and emcee bios click here <https://mccsn.com/w-t-h-awards-luncheon/>

More than 250 industry professionals attended the 2017 event and MCCSN anticipates 300 attendees this year, thanks to the support of prior honorees, partners and sponsors. The 2018 WITH awards committee includes past honorees who are enthusiastically lending their support to encourage industry professionals to attend this year's program. MCCSN's community charitable partner, Mt. Miguel High School Matador Business Academy (MBA), is a four-year program and Career Technical Education pathway creating college and career ready students in the underserved communities of Spring Valley and Lemon Grove. MCCSN President Clara Carter stated "MCCSN's basic business philosophies are to provide excellent service to its clients, to promote the highest industry standards, to inspire greatness among current industry professionals, and to share its success by providing education and leadership to the next generation. That's why we present the W.I.T.H. awards at a networking luncheon and why we selected Mt. Miguel High School Matador Business Academy to receive proceeds from the event".

MCCSN is seeking like-minded sponsors to help make this event a success. Advanced tickets for the event are \$65 each. If you would like to purchase a ticket and/or become a sponsor call MCCSN at 619-265-2561 or visit [www.mccsn.com/events](http://www.mccsn.com/events) Join us for a celebration like no other! MCCSN appreciates the value of building sustainable partnerships with individuals and organizations that align themselves with its own mission to increase the diversity and inclusiveness of the hospitality industry.

This year's WITH Awards Luncheon is sponsored by the following organizations: RAR Hospitality, Integrits, The Patio Group, SeaWorld, Smart City Networks, Kearny Mesa Infiniti, San Diego Tourism Authority, Creative Coverings and the Four Points by Sheraton San Diego. MCCSN is proud to call these organizations partners and grateful for their continued support in promoting the success of women in tourism and hospitality.

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