



For Immediate Release – Press Release

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Rhode Island Hospitality Association's Green Hospitality Certification Program Named to 2010 Associations Advance America Honor Roll *Program One of Only 34 Nationally to Receive Award*

Providence, RI – June 15, 2010 – **The Rhode Island Hospitality Association (RIHA)** has been named to the 2010 Associations Advance America (AAA) Honor Roll, a national awards competition sponsored by the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) & The Center for Association Leadership, Washington, DC.

RIHA received the award for its Green Hospitality Certification Program. Launched in 2008, the Green Hospitality Certification Program was developed through a partnership with the RI Department of Environmental Management (DEM), RI Resource Recovery, the Providence-Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Newport County Convention & Visitors Bureau, and the RI Hospitality Association.

The program charts a road map for hospitality and tourism businesses to employ green business practices with a focus on energy conservation, water conservation, waste minimization and recycling, and sustainable operating and purchasing practices. To participate, businesses are required to complete a workbook created by DEM that measures business policies and practices. Upon completion of the workbook, DEM reviews and scores these businesses. Businesses that score above 100 on the assessment receive DEM Green certification.

“The Green Hospitality Certification Program is a testament to the growing demand for environmentally conscious business practices,” said Dale Venturini, CEO of RIHA. “I am proud of our program’s ability to make significant contributions to the overarching goal



of achieving sustainability in the corporate arena. I am confident that we can set a new standard of excellence and I encourage all industries throughout Rhode Island to seek ways to lessen their environmental impact.”

RIHA’s Green Certification Program is one of only 34 selected for this recognition and evinces the vital role Associations play in improving the quality of life in communities across the country.

For more information on the DEM-approved Green Hospitality Certification Program, please visit www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/assist/grncert/index.htm.

About the Rhode Island Hospitality Association

With more than 600 foodservice and hospitality members in Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Hospitality Association has been the voice of the hospitality industry in the state for 26 years. For more information on the Rhode Island Hospitality Association, please call (401) 223-1120 or visit www.rihospitality.org.

About the Associations Advance America (AAA) Awards

Now in its 20th year, the prestigious Associations Advance America (AAA) Awards program recognizes Associations that propel America forward – with innovative projects in education, skills training, standards setting, business and social innovation, knowledge creation, citizenship, and community service.

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