



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Stephanie Pappas Named Industry Partner of the Year by the Massachusetts Lodging Association

Boston, MA: Stephanie Pappas, Director of International Meetings & Sports Business Development for the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau, has been named *Industry Partner of the Year* by the Massachusetts Lodging Association. Stephanie was recognized for her extraordinary ability to build partnerships and drive revenue for the Boston hospitality community. She has built from scratch partnerships that have made a difference and won major international meetings and sporting events that have had significant impact for our community.

The sports related events and meetings have driven more than \$55 million in direct spending, thousands of hotel room nights and significant new spending for restaurants, attractions and visitor industry businesses. She has led the effort to create bid teams that are comprised of industry partners from hotels to universities (Harvard, BU, Boston College, Northeastern) to sports venues like Boston Garden, Gillette Stadium and other partners like the Skating Club of Boston, the Reggie Lewis Track & Athletic Center at Roxbury Community College, the Sportsmen's Tennis Club in Dorchester, among others.

In the international marketplace, as a direct result of her efforts, Boston & Cambridge have seen a 25% growth in the number of international meetings over the past 5 years, and has been recognized by the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) as having the largest number of international meetings in the US for three of those years.

“Stephanie’s commitment and dedication to our members and her clients is exemplary. Her laser-like focus on growing the international meetings and sports markets has resulted in the GBCVB and our members seeing significant growth in business from these important segments of our industry”, said Patrick B. Moscaritolo, President & CEO of the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau. “The selection of Stephanie to receive this award is a reflection on all that she does to generate business for our destination. She is a true industry professional.”

The Massachusetts lodging industry came together at the Hyatt Regency Boston on Friday, March 28, 2014 to honor exemplary employees and unique programs in the industry, at the 2013 Stars of the Industry Awards Gala. “Once again, we

had an exceptional group of nominees to choose from,” said Paul J. Sacco, President & CEO of the Massachusetts Lodging Association. “But Stephanie embodies the definition of an industry partner, working closely with the hotels and other CVB members to ensure not only in greater Boston but throughout the state that they are successful in meeting their goals by working with the Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau.”

Stephanie is a member of the Professional Convention Management Association (PCMA), where she has served locally on the PCMA New England Board; American Society of Association Executives; Meeting Professionals International; International Congress & Convention Association; Union of International Associations; National Sports Marketing Network; National Association of Sports Commissions; Women in Sports and Events; and the Contemporary A Cappella Society of America. She is also actively involved with the Dormition of the Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church in Somersworth, NH; Urban Harmony Movement which encourages music in inner city public schools; “Dream Big!” which helps provide low income and homeless girls with the basic items needed for them to participate in sports, recreation and physical activity; and serves as a judge in the annual International Collegiate A Cappella Championships.