

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Destination Experts Earn Prestigious Designation**

Patricia Smurro and Alex Hurd achieve the Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation.

Newport (R.I.) August 10, 2018 – Patricia Smurro and Alex Hurd, both Destination Experts at Discover Newport, have each achieved the coveted Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation.

The Events Industry Council, a federation of more than 30 organizations in the meetings, conventions and hospitality/travel industry, developed the CMP program in 1985. Today, the CMP credential is recognized globally as a badge of excellence throughout the industry.

"Patricia and Alex are seasoned professionals. Achieving the CMP status makes evident their comprehensive knowledge of meeting management and will further advance their capability to bring meetings, incentives and events to our destination while delivering the best service to our clients both nationwide and internationally," said Discover Newport's Vice President of Sales, Tim Walsh.

Smurro, a hospitality professional for more than 20 years, joined Discover Newport in 2006. Hurd joined Discover Newport in 2011 as Tourism Sales Manager and was appointed a Destination Expert in 2015.

The qualifications for CMP certification are based on professional experience, education and a rigorous exam. The celebrated credential solidifies the dedication, drive and commitment both Smurro and Hurd share with clients who plan meetings and events in Newport and Bristol counties.

Images available.

## ABOUT DISCOVER NEWPORT

Discover Newport is the official destination management organization (DMO) dedicated to promoting the City of Newport and the eight surrounding coastal townships in Newport and Bristol counties, Rhode Island. These include Barrington, Bristol, Jamestown, Little Compton, Middletown, Newport, Portsmouth, Tiverton and Warren. As a non-profit organization, Discover Newport partners with stakeholders throughout our tourism and hospitality industry to market the region as a premier destination for business and leisure travel. DiscoverNewport.org

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