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Two Premier Chicago Hotels Appoint Food and Beverage Directors

Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers Taps Dan Piccolello And The Westin Chicago River North Names Greg Carlson to Oversee Culinary Experience

CHICAGO –April 22, 2008 –The award-winning Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers and The Westin Chicago River North, known as the “The Chicago River Connection,” are pleased to announce Dan Piccolello and Greg Carlson as the food and beverage directors for each property respectively. In their new roles, Piccolello and Carlson are charged with keeping the hotels’ food and beverage operations at the forefront of Chicago’s culinary scene. Each will work with their respective hotel executive chef to oversee the properties’ gastronomic offerings for its restaurants, banquets, group functions and private events. From menu development and pricing to identifying and analyzing industry market trends, they will supervise the day-to-day culinary operations.

“We are thrilled to have Piccolello and Carlson join our team,” said Gladys O’Mahony, director of sales & marketing for The Chicago River Connection. “Their dedication to ensure cohesiveness across all food and beverage outlets, coupled with their industry insight, will continue to keep our hotels among the top for local dining in the downtown Chicago area.”

Piccolello is a veteran of the culinary and hospitality industries with over 24 years of experience, seven concentrated in the Chicago-area. With an extensive background in banquet and catering, he most recently served as the executive assistant manager (EAM) senior food and beverage director at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place in Chicago. There he was responsible for overseeing over \$20 million in food and beverage revenue annually while managing over 250 employees. Piccolello has also served as the EAM-senior food and beverage director at the Hyatt Regency Chicago O’Hare Airport and Hyatt Regency Phoenix. Piccolello graduated with a bachelor of science in hotel administration from the University of Nevada. A foodie and wine enthusiast by trade, Piccolello’s passion extends beyond the kitchen as he is an avid marathon runner completing eight marathons over the past six years, including six marathons in Chicago.

No stranger to the Chicago area or Starwood Hotels & Resorts, Carlson has more than 12 years experience in restaurant operations, training and business development. In his most recent position, Carlson was director of outlets at The Westin St. Francis Hotel in San Francisco where he was responsible for overseeing over \$6.5 million in revenue. Carlson also worked at Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers, where he quickly climbed the ranks from assistant general manager to food and beverage outlets manager to general manager of the hotel’s renowned Shula’s Steak House restaurant. As outlet manager he oversaw the property’s six dining outlets and as general manager he increased restaurant revenue by 20%. Carlson is a graduate of University of Missouri with a bachelor of science in food and natural resources, with an emphasis on hotel and restaurant management.

For reservations and information for Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers visit www.sheratonchicago.com or call (312) 464-1000. For The Westin Chicago River North visit www.westinchicago.com or call (312) 744-1900.

Located in the heart of downtown Chicago at 301 East North Water Street, the Sheraton Chicago Hotel & Towers is ideally situated on the Chicago River, within walking distance of Navy Pier, fabulous Michigan Avenue shopping, Millennium Park, the Loop business district and more. This premier meetings and convention hotel features 120,000 square feet of state-of-the-art meeting space, including a 40,000 square-foot ballroom (the largest hotel ballroom in the Midwest), 34 breakout rooms and a 35,000 square-foot exhibit hall. The hotel's 1,209 guest rooms and suites feature spectacular views and Sheraton's ultra-comfortable Sweet Sleeper(SM) bed. The hotel also features five distinctive restaurants and lounges, including Shula's Steak House, one of America's favorites. Chi Bar, Chicago's chic new hot spot, was created by renowned designer, Jeffrey Beers. Chi Bar channels Chicago energy by bringing all the excitement and tradition of the Windy City into one luxe lounge with innovative cocktails, shareable delights and sleek ambiance. Other amenities include a full-service business center, concierge, health club with massage therapy, sun deck and an indoor pool.

Overlooking the Chicago River at 320 North Dearborn Street, The Westin Chicago River North is centrally located in the heart of Chicago's business and theatre districts and steps from Millennium Park, fabulous Michigan Avenue shopping and great restaurants. The hotel's 424 rooms and suites offer beautiful skyline views and feature Westin's legendary Heavenly Bed® and invigorating Heavenly Bath®. The recently refreshed Westin Executive Club® Level showcases refurbished guestrooms with iMAC computers, iPod docking stations, 32-inch flat-screen televisions, complimentary high-speed Internet access and ample desk space. The new Westin Executive Club® Lounge offers complimentary Wi-Fi, 42-inch flat-screen televisions and more. For distinctive dining, there is Ember Grille, Hana Lounge and Kamehachi Sushi Bar. Other services and amenities include WestinWorkout® Powered by Reebok, massage therapy, concierge services and a state-of-the-art business center.

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