

## **Choice Hotels Associate Wins Minority Supplier Development Leader of the Year Award**

**Diversity Specialist Danielle Smith Honored by Maryland/District of Columbia Minority Supplier Development Council**

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Worldwide lodging franchisor Choice Hotels International is proud to announce that Danielle Smith, specialist of inclusion and diversity, received the Minority Supplier Development Leader of the Year Award from the Maryland/District of Columbia Minority Supplier Development Council at their 26th Annual Leadership Awards Gala held last week.

In her role, Smith provides support on strategy, design and implementation for the inclusion and diversity department at Choice Hotels. She is responsible for the execution and management of the supplier diversity program. These duties include managing the supplier diversity database, forming relationships with and evaluating vendors and promoting the program through education and advocacy.

Smith also serves as chair of the Council's Education and Training Committee, which works with the minority business owners and corporate representatives of the Maryland/District of Columbia Minority Supplier Development Council. The committee works to analyze the developmental needs of minority businesses and supplier diversity professionals, and to implement training programs to need those needs.

"I am extremely grateful to have received this distinguished award," said Smith. "Supplier diversity is very important to us here at Choice and it is truly a great honor to be recognized for these efforts."

Smith was also nominated for the Advocate of the Year Award and her employer, Choice Hotels, was honored as a nominee for the Corporation of the Year Award.

### About Choice Hotels

Choice Hotels International franchises more than 5,500 hotels, representing more than 450,000 rooms, in the United States and 37 countries and territories. As of September 30, 2007, 872 hotels are under development in the United States, representing 68,853 rooms, and an additional 82 hotels, representing 7,970 rooms, are under development in more than 20 countries and territories. The company's Comfort Inn, Comfort Suites, Quality, Sleep Inn, Clarion, Cambria Suites, MainStay Suites, Suburban Extended Stay Hotel, Econo Lodge and Rodeway Inn brands serve guests worldwide.

Additional corporate information may be found on Choice Hotels' Internet site, which may be accessed at [www.choicehotels.com](http://www.choicehotels.com).

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