

SUNY DELHI UNVEILS NEWLY RENOVATED MARRIOTT SUITE
Industry Partnership Leads to Renovations

DELHI, NY ... SUNY Delhi's Hospitality Management Department will celebrate the grand re-opening of its new Marriott Suite with a ribbon cutting ceremony Tuesday, April 29, at 1:30 p.m. in the Alumni Hall Hospitality Center.

College officials, students, faculty and staff will recognize Marriott for completely renovating a hotel suite that serves as a learning laboratory for students in SUNY Delhi's nationally recognized hospitality management programs. Participants in the ribbon cutting will include: Dr. Candace S. Vancko, SUNY Delhi President; Rosalie Higgins, dean of business and hospitality; Stacey Veden, Marriott's vice president for university relations and property staffing; Tom Walsh, a 1988 graduate of SUNY Delhi's Hospitality Management program and Director of Hotel Sales at the Westchester Marriott; and Matthew Muserlian, president of the student chapter of the Hotel Sales Management Association.

The original Marriott suite was built in 1987 as part of a larger construction project that converted a campus dining hall into the Alumni Hall Hospitality Center. Since then, the suite has served as a learning laboratory for students of the college's Hospitality Management program who have aspirations of entering the hotel and resort industry.

According to Rosalie Higgins, the college prides itself on keeping pace with hotel industry standards and approached Marriott corporate headquarters last fall to see if they could help the college bring its hotel suite up to date.

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“It’s absolutely essential to our hospitality programs that we stay current with what’s going on in the field,” said Dean Higgins. “Our students need to stay on top of design, purchasing, and housekeeping to be successful in their careers. Having the new suite will give them that advantage, especially if they are seeking employment with Marriott or any other quality lodging properties.”

Alumnus Tom Walsh was Delhi’s key to getting support from Marriott. He connected the college with corporate headquarters and urged Marriott to help. “Marriott quickly obliged. They contributed everything we needed—from wall coverings and furnishings to bed linens and fixtures,” Dean Higgins said.

Delhi students gained from the industry connection in more ways than one. According to Associate Professor Bob Seibert, Marriott extended the welcome mat to faculty and students of Delhi’s Hospitality Management program and hosted a group at the corporation’s headquarters in Washington D.C. in March. Delhi students had the opportunity to sit down with top Marriott executives at a dinner held in the college’s honor. “They rolled out the red carpet for us,” Professor Seibert added. “And to show their thanks, the students brought a college sweatshirt for J.W. Marriott. It was really touching.”

SUNY Delhi was one of the first colleges in New York State to introduce Hospitality Management at the associate’s degree level and has become a recognized leader in hospitality education. Delhi also offers the only Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Hospitality Management in New York State. With its full range of majors in Restaurant and Foodservice Management, Hotel and Resort Management, Travel and Tourism Management, and Culinary Arts, SUNY Delhi prepares graduates for middle management careers in the second largest industry in New York State.