



Office of Public Affairs
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News Release

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Darden Restaurants Foundation Awards Grant to Cal Poly Pomona Collins School for Students' Professional Travel

POMONA, Calif. — April 8, 2008 — Cal Poly Pomona students from The Collins School of Hospitality Management will have more professional development opportunities than ever thanks to a new \$50,000 grant from the Darden Restaurants Foundation.

The grant will be added to the Darden Experience the Industry Award endowment, which has provided students with financial assistance to attend industry conferences and trade shows since 2003.

"Few of our students can afford traveling to industry conferences on their own," said Andy Feinstein, dean of The Collins School. "Darden's ongoing support allows our students to compliment their education through enriching professional development outside the classroom."

This grant marks the second contribution to this endowment from Darden Restaurants, which owns several chains including Red Lobster and Olive Garden. In 2003, the foundation gave The Collins School \$50,000, which was matched by Carol and Jim Collins and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation to create a \$150,000 endowment for student scholarships.

Attending conferences and trade shows invoke Cal Poly Pomona's learn-by-doing philosophy because students are able to interact with and learn from professionals in the hospitality industry. This May, for example four Collins School students will each be given \$300 to supplement their travel expenses to attend the National Restaurant Association's Restaurant, Hotel-Motel Show in Chicago.

Past scholarship recipients have also attended the International Hotel & Restaurant Show, the Western Foodservice Show and the Las Vegas International Restaurant Show.

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