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ACOM Debuts New Memorial Award, Launches Scholarship Program

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As part of its mission to advance the professionalism of convention services management in the meetings industry, the Association for Convention Operations Management (ACOM) has launched its third annual student scholarship program and introduced a new award for ACOM members, it announced this week

As it's done for the past two years, the Donald S. Freeman, Jr. ACOM Conference Scholarship will provide one student who is studying in the hospitality management field funding so that he or she can attend the ACOM Annual Conference, taking place Jan. 8-10, 2010, in Dallas. Before, during and after the conference—during which the scholarship recipient will attend educational sessions and networking events—the student will be mentored by a representative from Freeman.

"This program continues to provide students with an education experience, helping them connect with the industry's top meeting professionals as well as acquire the tools and knowledge they need to excel in their future careers," said First Vice President of ACOM Eric Blanc, CMP, senior sales manager at Freeman.

Meanwhile, ACOM's new award, the William H. Just CAE, CMP Memorial Award, will recognize one ACOM member who has received their Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) designation within the last three years and remains in good standing with the association. Named for ACOM's late founder, who also played a key role in establishing the CMP program, the award—like the scholarship—will include a complimentary Annual Conference registration.

"Efforts such as the scholarship program and the new memorial award truly illustrate ACOM's commitment to enhancing the convention services industry and developing ways to honor our members for their hard work and dedication," said ACOM President Lyan Tassler.

The deadline for submitting ACOM Conference Scholarship applications is Nov. 13 while the deadline for submitting Just Memorial Award applications is Oct. 23. ACOM will announce its scholarship winner on Dec. 1 and its memorial award winner on Nov. 1. For more information, visit www.acomonline.org.

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