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Washington Hilton Hosts Client Conference to Debut its New Heights Executive Meeting Center

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"Sustainability, Digital Commerce the Focus of 2010 Heights Learning Summit; Hotel Demonstrates Collaborative Approach to Meeting and Conference Support"



WASHINGTON, D.C. – (May 2010) – Demonstrating its commitment to developing collaborative client partnerships, Washington Hilton today convened its 2010 Heights Learning Summit, a two-session conference for the hotel's meeting, convention and event planning clients, to discuss the latest principles for sustainability and digital commerce success.

The complimentary Learning Summit featured two presentations led by Hilton Worldwide sustainability and digital commerce executives. The sessions featured robust discussions about some of the most pressing issues facing the industry, such as increasing meeting attendance and membership, using e-commerce to maximize value, leveraging networking sites and reducing the carbon footprint of meetings.

"We're constantly working to show meeting and event planners that we're devoted to helping them fulfill their missions in innovative and creative ways," said Frank Passanante, Hilton Worldwide Regional Director of Sales and Marketing. "Our goal is to be considered a true partner with our clients, much more than a just great place to host an event."

Washington Hilton hosted the 2010 Heights Learning Summit to officially debut the dynamic learning environment created by its newest addition, The Heights Executive Meeting Center, which opened its doors as part the hotel's \$140 million landmark restoration.

With a focus on facilitating conferences and training sessions, Heights Executive Meeting Center provides a distraction-free learning environment in a dedicated area of the hotel located away from convention space and high-traffic guest areas. It is comprised of nine rooms with features that are unmatched in Washington, D.C., including a large outdoor courtyard with impressive skyline views of Washington and a central refreshment area with continuous food and beverage service – all available to planners with affordable per-person, per-day inclusive package pricing.

The Center's meeting rooms have a wide range of features that extend beyond the traditional hotel setting. In place of banquet chairs and tables with linens, conference attendees will find a setting conducive to all-day learning, including hard-top tables with easy laptop connections, wireless Internet access, ergonomic chairs, tackable walls, mounted boards, a recessed electronic projection screen, blackout shades, individual meeting room climate controls and large floor-to-ceiling windows that provide garden views. Outside the individual meeting rooms, the center has interactive digital technology, where conference attendees can use touch-screens to access a wide range of information – from viewing the day's agenda to looking up flight information for the surrounding major airports.

Beyond the conference rooms, attendees have access to an expansive adjoining outdoor courtyard with impressive skyline views, a water feature, fire pits and ample space for intimate seating arrangements or large networking gatherings. The meeting center corridor also includes additional seating, laptop touch-down areas and a refreshment area with continuous snack and beverage service, including a variety of hot and cold dishes as well as healthy and indulgent treats.

The new meeting center is part of Hilton Washington's landmark \$140 million restoration project, scheduled for completion in June 2010. Along with its top-to-bottom makeover, the hotel has renewed its commitment to exceeding guests' expectations with a new culture where guests and meeting planners alike can expect more hospitality, more flexibility and more collaboration. And with the hotel and meeting center located adjacent to some of Washington's most sought-after neighborhoods, guests can also expect more authentic Washington, D.C. experiences – from embracing local neighborhood dishes in The District Line Restaurant + Bar to naming its new meeting spaces after local places and people beyond the typical presidential, political and the business-as-usual names in Washington, D.C.

Situated on nearly six acres, Hilton Washington offers a contemporary urban resort set on Connecticut Avenue near Dupont Circle, Adams Morgan, Georgetown, Embassy Row and the National Zoo. The hotel boasts 1,070 guest rooms, on-site dining, a lobby lounge, a sports bar, a complete health club and a business center. Hilton Washington has been the site of prestigious gatherings hosted by U.S. presidents, world leaders and other prominent figures since opening in 1965, with more than 110,000 square feet of event space, including one of the largest column-free ballrooms on the east coast – its legendary 36,000 square-foot International Ballroom complex. For more information, visit www.washington.hilton.com.

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