

For Immediate Release
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**LISA HOPKINS, HOUSTONIAN, WINS NACE CATERER OF THE YEAR; MONIQUE STUDAK
NAMED EVENT PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR**

BALTIMORE, AUSTIN NAMED NACE CHAPTERS OF THE YEAR

COLUMBIA, MD – AUGUST 1, 2010 – The National Association of Catering Executives (NACE) announced the winners of its annual awards for the best executions of catering, events and design, at its annual national conference Experience! 2010 in Austin, TX last week.

Lisa Hopkins, CPCE, CMP, and director of catering at the Houstonian in Houston, TX, and the organization's first vice president, was named the Caterer Member of the Year. Monique Studak, with E&J Gallo Winery, was named the event professional of the year. The Baltimore and Austin chapters were named best of the year.

The organization also honored the best catered events and chapter programs in a variety of categories:

NACE CHAPTER AWARDS:

- Chapter of The Year - Fewer Than 100 members – **Austin Chapter**
- Chapter of The Year – 100 Members or More – **Baltimore Chapter**
- Community Service of the Year Award, Chapters Fewer Than 100 Members – **Anchorage Chapter**
- Community Service of the Year Award, Chapters 100 Members or More – **Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter**
- Fundraising Event of the Year Award, Chapters Fewer than 100 Members – **Austin Chapter**
- Fundraising Event of the Year Award, Chapters 100 Members or More – **Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter**
- Program of the Year Award, Chapters Fewer Than 100 Members – **Minneapolis/St. Paul Chapter**
- Program of the Year Award, Chapters of 100 Members or More – **Triangle Chapter**

NACE AWARDS RECOGNIZING MEMBER COMPANIES

- Business Partners of the Year – **Creative Coverings, Sparks NV and E&J Gallo, Houston, TX**
- Best Catered On-Premise Event of the Year, Budget Under \$25,000, **Laura Mistretta, CPCE -- El Gaucho Bellevue, Bellevue, WA**

- Best Catered On-Premise Event of the Year, Budget Between \$25,000 and \$75,000 – **Creations in Catering, Honolulu, HI**
- Best Catered On-Premise Event of the Year, Budget More than \$75,000 – **Bonnie Opper – Chef’s Expressions, Baltimore, MD**
- Best Catered Off-Premise Event of the Year, Budget Under \$25,000 – **Mary Frances Despres – Whole Foods Market Culinary Center, Austin, TX**
- Best Catered Off-Premise Event of the Year, Budget Between \$25,000-\$75,000 – **A Legendary Event, Atlanta, GA**
- Best Catered Wedding Event of the Year, Budget under \$25,000 – **Dianna K. Shitanishi, CPCE, CMP – Hawaii Weddings and Events, Honolulu, HI**
- Best Catered Wedding Event of the Year, Budget \$25,000 - \$75,000 – **David Caruso – Dynamic Events, Milwaukee, WI**
- Best Catered Wedding Event of the Year, Budget More than \$75,000 – **Carrie Watkins Key – Dragon Ridge Country Club, Las Vegas, NV**
- Best Event Production, Budget Between \$25,000 - \$75,000 – **Billinda Wilkinson – Wilkinson Rhodes, San Antonio, TX**
- Best Event Production, Budget More than \$75,000 – **Red Carpet Events & Design, Reno-Tahoe, NV**
- Best Guest Table Presentation of the Year – **A Legendary Event, Atlanta, GA**
- Best Buffet Table Presentation of the Year – Diane Tighe – **Washington Duke Inn & Golf Club, Durham, NC**

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

- 2009 George Zell – Spirit of NACE – **Paula Fenner, CPCE – Dallas/Ft. Worth Chapter AND Lisa Lynn Backus, CPCE, CMP – Las Vegas Chapter**
- 2009 Event Professional of the Year – **Monique Studak – E&J Gallo Winery, Houston, TX**
- 2009 Caterer Member of the Year – **Lisa Hopkins, CPCE, CMP – The Houstonian Hotel, Club and Spa, Houston, TX**

With more than 4,000 members, the National Association of Catering Executives (NACE), www.nace.net is the oldest and largest professional association dedicated to all aspects of the catering industry. Dedicated to promoting career success for its members and the professionalism of the industry, NACE offers educational programs, professional certification (CPCE), chapter initiatives, networking opportunities, recognition and awards programs, a job bank, community service projects and the industry’s most prestigious annual conference. In helping its members enhance their business and careers, NACE helps the industry reach its highest potential.