

KIMPTON[®]
hotels & restaurants

CHICAGO

Allegro
Burnham
Monaco - Chicago
Palomar - Chicago

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**RON VLASIC OF KIMPTON HOTELS & RESTAURANTS APPOINTED AS 2015
CHAIRMAN OF THE ILLINOIS HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION EDUCATION
FOUNDATION (IHIAEF)**

CHICAGO, January 5, 2015 – Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants is pleased to announce that the Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association Education Foundation (IHIAEF) has appointed Ron Vlasic, Regional Vice President of hotels for Kimpton, as Chairman of the foundation. IHIAEF is the not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) educational arm of the Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association (IHIA). Vlasic, previously chairman of the board of IHIA in 2013, will bring his industry expertise to the foundation to help increase funding for its scholarship program, provide continuing education for hospitality industry professionals and offer training and certification programs for future leaders.

“I’m thrilled to be named this year’s chair of IHIAEF,” said Vlasic. “As the hotel industry continues to boom, it’s important to make sure we have enough qualified candidates for not only existing properties but also the new hotel positions that will become available.”

Vlasic is also an avid supporter of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s goal to bring 55 million annual visitors to the city by 2020. If the city is able to reach this goal that could mean 30,000 additional tourism-related jobs added and hundreds of millions of dollars in new revenue for Chicago.

“IHIAEF is such an integral component in helping develop future leaders for our industry by the scholarships and resources they provide,” said Vlasic. “As Kimpton begins work on its fifth hotel in Chicago set to open in early 2016, I have a personal investment in the foundation’s mission to support, shape and produce these top leaders.”

Vlasic is a veteran in the hospitality industry with over 25 years of experience with Kimpton alone which makes him the ideal candidate to lead the IHLAEF board in reaching their goals. As Regional Vice President for Kimpton, Vlasic provides operational support to 18 of Kimpton's properties and acts as the liaison to ownership groups and the Kimpton home office based in San Francisco.

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ABOUT KIMPTON HOTELS & RESTAURANTS

San Francisco-based Kimpton Hotels & Restaurants is the leading collection of boutique hotels and restaurants in the United States and the acknowledged industry pioneer that first introduced the boutique hotel concept to America. In 1981, Bill Kimpton founded the company that today is renowned for making travelers feel genuinely cared for while away from home through thoughtful perks and amenities, distinctive design that tells a story and inspires a sense of fun at each hotel and a sincerely personal style of guest service. Out to help people live full, balanced lives, Kimpton aims to inspire with touches like yoga mats in every room, complimentary coffee and tea to start the day, hosted evening Wine Hour, in-room fitness programming and complimentary bike rentals. The award-winning restaurants and bars are led by talented chefs and bartenders that offer guests a chance to dine like a local. Kimpton also leads the hospitality industry in eco-friendly practices that span all hotels and restaurants, and is consistently ranked as one of the top companies in the Market Metrix Hospitality Index, Upper Upscale Segment, for Customer Satisfaction. The company is highly-regarded for its innovative employee culture and benefits and has been named a Fortune magazine "Best Place to Work" five times since 2009. Kimpton is continuously growing and currently operates 60 hotels and nearly 70 restaurants, bars and lounges in 26 cities. For more information, visit www.KimptonHotels.com.

ABOUT ILLINOIS HOTEL & LODGING ASSOCIATION EDUCATION FOUNDATION (IHLEAF)

The Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association Educational Foundation (IHLEAF) is the not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) educational arm of the Illinois Hotel & Lodging Association (IHLEA). Incorporated in 1992, IHLEAF has been a primary source of scholarship assistance for deserving Illinois college students pursuing hospitality management degrees throughout the country, awarding over \$350,000 since its inception.