

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, July 7, 2010

### **BUFFALO THUNDER ANNOUNCES THREE SIGNIFICANT HIRES**

SANTA FE, N.M. –Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino is pleased to announce three new important promotions and hires: Natasha Carleton has been promoted to Director of Entertainment, Special Events and Promotions; Christi Windle has been named Director of Sales and Marketing for the Hilton Santa Fe Golf Resort & Spa at Buffalo Thunder and Carey Ferrante is Buffalo Thunder's new Wo P in Spa Manager.

"We feel very fortunate to have Christi and Carey join the Hilton team," says Tim Booth, General Manager, Hilton Santa Fe.

"Natasha's service to the property has been stellar," says Pojoaque Gov George Rivera. "Gene Stachowski, Executive Director of Marketing, recognized her strengths and has promoted her to Director of Entertainment, Special Events and Promotions."

"Christi, Natasha and Carey's combined experience is invaluable and adds a wealth of experience to Buffalo Thunder in the areas of sales, marketing, customer relations and promotions," adds Rivera. "Please join me in congratulating and welcoming them all."

# NEW DIRECTOR OF SALES AND MARKETING FOR HILTON SANTA FE GOLF RESORT & SPA AT BUFFALO THUNDER

Christi Windle has just been appointed as Director of Sales and Marketing for Hilton Santa Fe Golf Resort & Spa at Buffalo Thunder.

"We are very happy to welcome Christi back to the Hilton team after a four year hiatus; we feel lucky to have her back in the Hilton family," says Tim Booth, General Manager. "She was Director of Sales and Marketing at both the Hilton Santa Fe Historic Plaza and the Breckenridge Hilton Resort in Colorado."



"Christi has an impressive record with considerable experience in staff management, special events, convention key account management and advertising," adds Booth. "With more than 20 years in the travel industry, Christi is a great asset to us as we move into our second year of operation."

"My main responsibility is to increase revenues and profitability throughout the resort and casino." says Windle. "With the help of Hilton Corporation and the resourceful professional staff already in place, I feel confident Buffalo Thunder Resort can obtain the status accolades

and profitability this beautiful resort deserves."

Windle has a team of 15 employees reporting to her. Windle has lived in Santa Fe since 2003.

Windle's career includes more than 20 years of resort sales and marketing management. Most recently, she served as the Director of Sales for Sandia Resort and Casino in Albuquerque, NM. In addition to the 13 years of previous Hilton experience, she was the General Manager at the Inn at Santa Fe. In Colorado, she worked as Director of Sales at the Beaver Run Resort in Breckenridge and with Intrawest promoting the ski industry to international wholesale companies.

Windle enjoys gardening, skiing, oil painting, and hiking when not marketing the Hilton Santa Fe Golf Resort & Spa at Buffalo Thunder.

Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino, located just 15 minutes north of historic Santa Fe, NM is one of the premier destination resorts in the Southwest. This property is the Hilton's first Native American partnership and is owned and operated by the Pueblo of Pojoaque. The resort appeals to golfers and spa fanatics, meeting planners and conventioneers, families, and entertainment enthusiasts. Gaming enthusiasts are in their element in the expansive Las Vegas-style casino featuring 1,200 slot machines, various table games, a 10-table poker room, and racehorse and dog track simulcast off-track wagering.

### ENTERTAINMENT, SPECIAL EVENTS, PROMOTIONS DIRECTOR NAMED

Natasha Carleton has been promoted from Marketing Manager to Entertainment, Special Events and Promotions Director at Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino.

Carleton is responsible for organizing a variety of concerts, functions and events at Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino including the Free Fall Festival with the popular L.A.-based band Ozomatli and the November Comedy Month with Bill Engvall and Brad Garrett. She plans and executes national acts for the casinos, as well as bringing new and exciting special events to the area.

"Natasha plays a central role at Buffalo Thunder," says Gene Stachowski, Executive Director of Marketing. "The fact that Buffalo Thunder guests feel so loyal to us is in no small measure due to Natasha's wonderful customer relations and her creative planning and execution."

"This is an exciting time at Buffalo Thunder and I look forward to the challenge of building a master plan for year-around entertainment," says Carleton. "Event planning is very exciting and never boring. You get to meet a variety of people and learn the most interesting things. The exposure to such a wide range of people is the best part of this job."

Carleton started her casino career with Harrah's Entertainment in Atlantic City in 2004. She started as a Total Rewards Supervisor and then was promoted three times to Channel Marketing

Manager. In these positions, Carleton oversaw the player's club staff, procedures and loyalty program. She worked on multiple projects including initiating internet marketing where she managed online media campaigns, email marketing campaigns, mobile marketing strategies and the core casino websites. She moved to Santa Fe in 2009 to become the Marketing Manager for Buffalo Thunder Resort & Casino.

## FERRANTE NEW WO'P'IN SPA MANAGER

The Hilton Santa Fe Golf Resort & Spa at Buffalo Thunder announces the appointment of a new spa manager of the Wo'P'in Spa, Carey Ferrante. *Wo'P'in Spa* is a luxury 16,000-square-foot Native American-themed spa/salon.

Ferrante, a seasoned spa professional, is responsible for managing all aspects of the largest spa in New Mexico. Ferrante oversees a staff of more than 35 highly skilled people in the health and wellness industry. *Wo P in Spa* at Buffalo Thunder offers more than 30 spa treatments, many of which Ferrante developed exclusively for *Wo P in*.

"We are delighted to welcome Carey to Hilton Santa Fe Golf Resort & Spa at Buffalo Thunder," says Tim Booth, General Manager, Hilton Santa Fe Golf Resort & Spa at Buffalo Thunder. "Her experience managing spas will be an invaluable asset to our resort."



Ferrante joins *Wo'P'in* Spa at Buffalo Thunder most recently from the La Posada Resort & Spa. She was the owner of the Taos Spa & Tennis Club and the Sales Director at Tanoan Country Club in Albuquerque. She was spa director at both La Bella Spa & Salon and Indulgences Day Spa & Salon in Albuquerque.

"Wo'P'in Spa is really a special way to really take time out to pamper and take care of yourself," says Ferrante. "I'd like to invite everyone up to Wo'P'in for a wonderful day that is sure to help you relax and rejuvenate."

Ferrante recently lowered all spa treatment prices. *Wo-P'in* offers 20% discounts to New Mexicans every day of the week except Saturdays.

## www.buffalothunderresort.com

#### INTERVIEWS AND IMAGES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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