



Hospitality Training Partners - From Left to Right
Mr. Michael Whelihan (Asst. Director of Juvenile Detention), Executive Chef
Chester Strohecker (Hospitality International Training H.I.T.), Students at
Clark County Detention Center (CCDC) and Captain Teel of CCDC.

HOSPITALITY INTERNATIONAL TRAINING (H.I.T.)

Developing a “Bank of Certified Talent”
 For the Hospitality and Restaurant Industry

The Better Business Bureau (BBB) is pleased to announce their partnership with Hospitality International Training (H.I.T.). Lead by BBB of Southern Nevada Executive Board Member, Dr. Lonnie G. Wright, H.I.T. trains hospitality professionals and provides a bank of certified talent, such as certified line cooks, to the hospitality industry. Dr. Wright, as a long-time BBB Board Member, envisioned an opportunity to add service to all hospitality restaurants, from Mega Resorts to Mom and Pop operations. To prove the skillset and work ethic of these H.I.T. graduates, Nevada Partners WEX (Workforce Experience) will provide graduates from 3 to 4 months' worth of pay, paid for by the Federal Government through Nevada Partners, a Workforce Investment Provider of the State of Nevada. According to George M. Cartwright, President and Chief Executive Officer of the BBB of South-

ern Nevada, “This collaboration gives member restaurants of the BBB a free opportunity to assess prospective employees before they decide to commit to an offer of full-time employment. This level of commitment is something that results in a win-win for business owners and the H.I.T. graduates as well, and is something Better Business Bureau is proud to stand behind.”

Hospitality International Training (H.I.T.) is an endeavor combining academia and training with the Hospitality and Restaurant Industry to enhance the workforce. The H.I.T. program has trained and placed graduates, providing a bank of certified talent by developing assets for kitchens throughout the local Hospitality Industry for over 5 years. Through the academy, students are taught job skills that prepare them to enter into the culinary business, a field that employs the largest single component of workers in our community and has a huge demand for certificated individuals. The H.I.T. Academy (www.hit.academy) is a subsidiary of the parent company Hospitality International founded by Dr. Lonnie G. Wright in 1998 to train domestic and international Hospitality enterprises from front of the house to back of the house.



Dr. Andrew Nixon (Curriculum / Compliance Director for H.I.T.) handing out graduation certificates at CCDC.



Dr. Thomas Peacock, SMYC participants and Dr. Lonnie G. Wright

“We believe that there are deserving young men and women who, with the appropriate job training and interpersonal relations skills, and with the likelihood of a job upon their release, can transition from being a ward of the state to becoming a contributing, taxpaying part of society.”

- Dr. Lonnie G. Wright

Born and raised in the hospitality mecca of Las Vegas in 1952, Dr. Wright has seen the evolution of Las Vegas into Nevada’s hospitality industry giant. Over the years, he has literally worked in almost every hands-on position in the hospitality industry, front and back of the house. He is an author, International lecturer, Department Chair of

Hospitality Management, former Associate V.P. and Dean of the Hospitality Institute of the College of Southern Nevada. Dr. Lonnie Wright has taught Hospitality Management for nearly 30 years in the College and University System of the great state of Nevada. A former Runnin’ Rebel basketball student athlete, he graduated from UNLV with his Baccalaureate of Science in Hotel Management and, upon obtaining his Master’s Degree, was hired as an adjunct instructor to teach Hotel Management at UNLV. After several years at UNLV, Dr. Wright was recruited to develop a Hotel School at the American College of Singapore. During this collaboration, Dr. Wright was offered a full-time teaching position back home for the College of Southern Nevada and, after serving in several administrative positions, he is currently the Director of Hospitality Management and a tenure professor.

Sherrie D. Wright, wife of Dr. Wright, is co-founder of the H.I.T. program and a Hospitality subject matter expert in her own right. A retired Beverage Supervisor/Manager with Stations Casinos, Sherrie orchestrated and managed several bars and restaurants with Stations and had a span of control of 100 employees experiencing a diverse workplace. Mrs. Wright went back to school to study Hotel Management and was awarded high honors as Phi Beta Cappa at CSN. She inspired

the ServSafe National Management Certificate to be included as an additional certification for graduates which included the certification from Post-Secondary Education in Line Cook and the Introduction of Baking (Desserts and Pastries) from the Post-Secondary Commission of the State of Nevada. Upon Mrs. Wright’s completion of the Hospitality program at CSN, the Wrights launched a catering company and landed a contract with Cornell Industries and GEO to provide meals to State and Federal halfway houses, feeding up to 100 clients each day, 3 meals a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, and serviced that contract for 8 1/2 years. In 2013, the Wrights merged their operational experience and education to develop the H.I.T. Post-Secondary Private School.

The H.I.T. Program has been designed for both the traditional and non-traditional learner. H.I.T. has a kitchen/lab at 950 E. Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89104, where they train the traditional learner. However, most of H.I.T.’s students are in juvenile and adult incarcerated facilities. For these students, the program is more than great technical training, it is a second chance to change people’s lives. As Dr. Wright expresses, “We believe that there are deserving young men and women who, with the appropriate job training and interpersonal relations skills, and with the likelihood of a job upon their release, can transition from being a ward of the state to becoming a contributing, taxpaying part of society.” By transitioning these individuals into taxpayers, the H.I.T. program, simultaneously reduces the burden on other Nevada Tax Payers for the housing of these wards in correctional facilities.

For more information on the **Hospitality International Training Program** or the partnership with the Better Business Bureau of Southern Nevada, contact **Dr. Lonnie G. Wright** at: **(702) 591-9572** or visit the website at: **HIT.Academy**.

“This level of commitment is something that results in a win-win for business owners and the H.I.T. graduates as well, and is something Better Business Bureau is proud to stand behind.”

- George M. Cartwright, President & CEO of the BBB of Southern Nevada