

Tourism Catalyst Award goes to USF dean

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The dean of the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee College of Hospitality and Technology Leadership has received the Tourism Catalyst Award from the Bradenton Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.



Cihan Cobanoglu, dean of the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee College of Hospitality and Technology Leadership, holds his Tourism Catalyst Award. COURTESY PHOTO

"I accept this award on behalf our students, faculty and staff," Cihan Cobanoglu said. "I am so lucky to be surrounded by amazing and supportive partners. I have no doubt that with our partners such as the BACVB we will have no problem reaching our goal to be one of the Top 10 hospitality schools in the country by 2020."

Cobanoglu, who is also the McKibbon Distinguished Chair professor, helps promote local tourism and hospitality economic growth by involving his faculty and students in partnerships with restaurants, hotels, events and industry leaders.

"We define a 'tourism catalyst' as an individual who has been a long-term champion in our local tourism and travel industry in creating awareness for the Bradenton Area, and there is no better example than Dr. Cobanoglu," Visitors Bureau Executive Director

Elliot Falcione said. "His commitment to guiding students with a passion for tourism and hospitality is incredible and we are so fortunate to have him in our own backyard."

The College of Hospitality and Technology Leadership offers undergraduate and master's degree programs to prepare students for leadership roles in global tourism as well as restaurant and hotel management. Programs include internships, hands-on field work and study abroad and exchange programs with international partners.

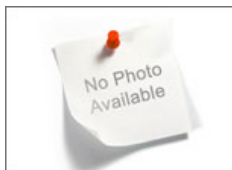
– Submitted by Charlie Terenzio

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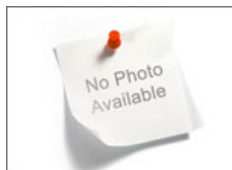
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