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Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook Announces New Executive Director of Operations David Cecil

SEATAC, Wash. – June 19, 2007 – Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook today announced that it has hired David Cecil as its new executive director of operations.

Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook is an exclusive, world-class leadership development center and event facility nestled on 18 acres of natural wetlands in SeaTac, Washington.

“We are extremely pleased to bring David onto our team,” said Lenny Zilz, vice president of operations for Columbia Hospitality, Inc., which operates and manages Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook. “His years of experience and diverse background in the hospitality industry are tremendous assets.”

Cedarbrook, which is a five-minute drive from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, is Washington Mutual’s dedicated campus for leadership education programs. The center is available to the public Thursdays through Mondays for retreats, weddings and other events.

Most recently, Cecil was the general manager and chief operating officer of Fox Chapel Golf Club, a private, member-owned club in Pittsburgh. Previously, he was the assistant general manager and chief operating officer of the private, member-owned Cherokee Town and Country Club in Atlanta and general manager of the Willow Springs Country Club in Roswell, Ga.

“I am honored to join such a quality group of individuals,” said Cecil. “Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook is an amazing property, and with this dynamite team behind me I know we will be able to produce unforgettable experiences for our guests.”

Cecil will be responsible for all operations at the Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook. He will ensure exceptional guest experiences and facilitate the growth and development of the Cedarbrook management team.

Cecil received a bachelor’s degree of science from the University of Houston’s Conrad N. Hilton College of Hotel and Restaurant Management and an MBA from Georgia State University’s J. Mack Robinson College of Business. He is an active member of the Club Managers Association of America and was president of the organization’s Georgia chapter and a director of the Pittsburgh chapter. Cecil is also a member of the International Wine Society.

EDITOR'S NOTE: High-resolution headshot is available on request.

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About The Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook

The Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook is an exclusive, world-class leadership development center and event facility nestled on 18 acres of natural wetlands in SeaTac, Wash.

Cedarbrook features a two-story conference center and two guestroom buildings with a total of 102 guestrooms. The modern campus, which features Northwest architectural styles, can accommodate groups from eight to 300 people.

Cedarbrook offers the serenity of a lush oasis of waterways and native vegetation with state-of-the-art technology. This dynamic combination ensures that meetings and events will run smoothly and that guests have the opportunity to re-energize as they bask in the solitude of the facility's natural setting.

Cedarbrook is Washington Mutual's dedicated campus for leadership education programs. The center is also available to the public for retreats, weddings and other events Thursdays through Mondays.

For more information, visit www.cedarbrookcenter.com.

About Columbia Hospitality, Inc.

Columbia Hospitality Inc., a leading hospitality management and consulting firm, was founded in 1995 by John Oppenheimer. Columbia Hospitality creates exceptional experiences for guests and employees while achieving phenomenal results for its property owners. Specializing in luxury hotel and resort management, Columbia Hospitality expertly transforms each vision for a unique property into an enduring and profitable business. Columbia Hospitality's premier properties include boutique hotels and secluded resorts such as the following:

- Kenwood Inn and Spa in Sonoma's Valley of the Moon in Kenwood, Calif.
- The Inn at Langley on Whidbey Island, Wash.
- Friday Harbor House on San Juan Island, Wash.
- Lakedale Resort at Three Lakes, also on San Juan Island
- Darnell's Lake Resort on Lake Chelan, Wash.
- The Resort at Deer Harbor, on Orcas Island, Wash.
- Holmes Harbor Golf & Beach Club on Whidbey Island, Wash.

The company also manages a portfolio of conference centers and event venues in Washington state, including the following:

- Bell Harbor International Conference Center in Seattle
- Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside
- Talaris Conference Center in Seattle

- Washington Mutual Leadership Center at Cedarbrook in SeaTac, Wash.

Columbia represents unique venues as well, including the following:

- World Trade Center Seattle
- Club Cielo in Seattle
- WaMu Center in Seattle
- Odyssey Maritime Discovery Center in Seattle
- Pier 30 Event Center in Seattle

The company additionally supports an active consulting division that has worked on more than 80 hospitality development projects in five Western U.S. states and Canada.