



## **THREE CONFERENCE CENTERS MANAGED BY COLUMBIA HOSPITALITY RECEIVE PINNACLE AWARDS FROM *SUCCESSFUL MEETINGS***

*Meeting planners give top marks to Bell Harbor International Conference Center, Kitsap Conference Center and Talaris Conference Center in national roundup*

**Seattle, Wash. (August 12, 2011)**- Three Seattle-area conference centers managed by Columbia Hospitality, including [Bell Harbor International Conference Center](#), [Kitsap Conference Center](#) and [Talaris Conference Center](#), have been recognized by *Successful Meetings* in its 2011 Pinnacle Awards.

Readers of *Successful Meetings* - professionals who are decision makers for planning meetings, events, conferences, and incentive programs - voted for the winners of the Pinnacle Awards via online ballots and gave feedback based on their professional experiences worldwide for the top hotels, conference centers, and Convention and Visitor Bureaus (CVBs). In the conference center category, these Columbia Hospitality properties are just three of 20 venues in the United States, and the only sites in Washington state, to be included.

“This kind of recognition is always very rewarding as it validates our effort to provide exceptional experiences for guests and meeting planners,” said Columbia Hospitality CEO John Oppenheimer. “We must take this opportunity to thank our supporters for voting, and promise to continue to execute flawless events and productive meetings with outstanding service.”

All winners are listed in *Successful Meetings*’ annual Pinnacle Registry, which appears in the August 2011 issue and is also listed [online](#). This year marks Bell Harbor International Conference Center’s fifth time receiving the award, and the first time that Kitsap Conference Center and Talaris Conference Center have enjoyed the recognition.

### **About Bell Harbor International Conference Center**

Bell Harbor International Conference Center is Seattle’s premier waterfront conference venue, with 18 meeting rooms totaling nearly 100,000 square feet and capacity for up to 6,000 guests. Equipped with state-of-the-art technology and amenities, this quintessential Seattle meeting venue provides the finest service and cuisine. Bell Harbor International Conference Center is owned by the Port of Seattle and managed and operated by Seattle-based Columbia Hospitality, Inc. To learn more visit [www.bellharbor.com](http://www.bellharbor.com).

### **About Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside**

Kitsap Conference Center at Bremerton Harborside is a high-tech conference center on the waterfront of Bremerton, Wash. The conference center is available for professional conferences and retreats, banquets, weddings and other special events. Kitsap Conference Center can accommodate 10 to 750 guests. The Center, which is a one-hour ferry ride from downtown Seattle, offers views of Sinclair Inlet and is literally 100 steps from the Seattle-Bremerton ferry terminal. Amenities include complimentary Wi-Fi service, videoconferencing, teleconferencing and onsite catering. The conference center is owned by the City of Bremerton and managed and operated by Seattle-based Columbia Hospitality, Inc. For more information, please call (360) 377-3785 or visit [kitsapconferencecenter.com](http://kitsapconferencecenter.com).

### **About Talaris Conference Center**

Talaris Conference Center, a full service retreat, event and meeting destination that combines a distinctively Northwest environment with metropolitan technology and amenities, is located on 18 acres in a natural, park-like setting near the University of Washington in Seattle. Talaris is just four blocks from University Village and within walking distance of neighborhood restaurants, cafes and jogging trails. With three large conference rooms, two intimate meeting spaces and multiple breakout areas, this wooded oasis is an ideal destination for intimate training workshops, meetings, retreats and other events for up to 150 people. In addition, 31 well-appointed guestrooms complete with flat screen televisions, daily continental breakfast and other fine amenities are located adjacent to the conference center offering convenience and comfort while making Talaris an ideal alternative to a traditional hotel. Talaris Conference Center is managed and operated by Seattle-based Columbia Hospitality, Inc. For more information call 206-268-7000 or visit [www.talarisconferencecenter.com](http://www.talarisconferencecenter.com).

### **About Columbia Hospitality**

Columbia Hospitality, Inc. (Columbia), a Seattle-based hospitality management and consulting firm specializing in luxury hotel and resort management, was founded in 1995 by John Oppenheimer. Columbia's growing portfolio of premier properties, including boutique hotels, award-winning resorts, event venues and conference centers, offer world-class service in exquisite settings. Columbia creates memorable experiences for guests and team members while achieving phenomenal results for owners. The company's continued success has led to an international expansion of the consulting division and more than 100 hospitality development projects worldwide. For more information about Columbia and a full list of properties visit [www.columbiahospitality.com](http://www.columbiahospitality.com).

### **About Successful Meetings:**

From basic concepts to advanced strategies, Successful Meetings has the indispensable knowledge—the insider tips and industry essentials—that any professional charged with planning a meeting needs in order to organize valuable, productive and inspiring events. Successful Meetings reaches these decision makers through print, digital, and face-to-face events. Successful Meetings is a monthly print and digital magazine with in-depth interviews, case studies, features, and special focus supplements. SuccessfulMeetings.com is the 24/7 portal for information and news effecting the industry. For more information on *Successful Meetings*, please visit [www.successfulmeetings.com](http://www.successfulmeetings.com). *Successful Meetings* is owned by Northstar Travel Media, LLC.

###

### **Media Contacts:**

For Columbia Hospitality:  
Hamilton McCulloh / Erin Petrie  
GreenRubino  
(206) 447-4747  
[hamiltonm@greenrubino.com](mailto:hamiltonm@greenrubino.com) / [erinp@greenrubino.com](mailto:erinp@greenrubino.com)

For Pinnacle:  
Catherine Marchese  
[Cmarchese@ntmlc.com](mailto:Cmarchese@ntmlc.com)