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**Cutlines** (left to right)

**3497** Cynthia Demeisier; Lucia Burbridge; Erica Pascua; Franca Farias; Ramola Motwani, chairwoman of Merrimac Ventures; Stephanie Ramirez; Natasha Davila and Megan R. Cottle, Vice President for Advancement at Broward College and Executive Director of the Broward College Foundation

**3522** Nitin Motwani; Ramola Motwani; Barbara J. Bryan, Ph.D., President of Broward College and Dev Motwani

**3532** Matt Caldwell, president and CEO of the Florida Panther; Nitin Motwani; Ramola Motwani; Eileen LaMarca; Representative Chip LaMarca; Megan R. Cottle, Vice President for Advancement at Broward College and Executive Director of the Broward College Foundation and Dev Motwani

**4386** Julie Grimes and Veronica Milanova with the Conrad Fort Lauderdale Beach

**4399** Howard Dvorkin, Rita Case and Dev Motwani

**4457** Alissa; Zachariah "Reggie" P. Zachariah, Jr., Vice-Chair Broward College; Stephen Kushner; Cindy Kushner, Trustee, Broward College; Ramola Motwani, chairwoman of Merrimac Ventures; Akhil K. Agrawal, Trustee, Broward College; Megan R. Cottle, Vice President for Advancement at Broward College and Executive Director of the Broward College Foundation; Dr. Mavara Agrawal; Barbara J. Bryan, Ph.D., President of Broward College; Shane Strum and Alexis Yarbrough, Chair Broward College Board of Trustees

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**Annual R. Motwani Family Gala Raised $200,000 for the**

**Hospitality and Tourism Management Program at Broward College**

*Graduates of program are prepared for jobs in one of Florida’s top industries*

**Fort Lauderdale, Florida (November 6, 2023)** – Tourism and hospitality are the lifeblood of Florida’s economy and one of the leading industries for jobs in the state. That’s why educating, engaging, and elevating the next generation for careers in the hospitality industry is so important.

To that end, $200,000 was raised during the recent R. Motwani Family Gala that took place on Thursday, October 26 at the Conrad Fort Lauderdale Beach will benefit Broward College students enrolled in the R. Motwani Family Academy of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Through the program, the industry comes to life with experiential learning and hands-on experiences. Students have access to scholarships, internships, and leaders in the industry who mentor and guide them through their education.

“It has been rewarding to see students graduate and thrive in their careers over these past four years since the Academy was first established,” said Ramola Motwani, chairwoman of Merrimac Ventures, a Fort Lauderdale-based real estate development and investment firm with hotel, residential and commercial projects. “These students learn so much, both in and out of the classroom, from this program. That’s important because when you think about it, we are all in the hospitality business.”

The R. Motwani Family Academy of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Broward College was established to honor the memory of Ramesh “Bob” Motwani by his wife Ramola and sons Nitin and Dev to recognize Bob’s legacy, leadership, and commitment to the hospitality industry.

During the Gala, guests enjoyed meeting with students and learning about how the program is uplifting and transforming their lives. Matt Caldwell, president and CEO of the Florida Panthers, was the evening’s featured speaker.

“We appreciate the generosity of sponsors, donors, and supporters, particularly Ramola and the entire Motwani family, who continue to positively impact our students in so many ways,” said Megan R. Cottle, Vice President for Advancement at Broward College and Executive Director of the Broward College Foundation. “Our goal is to ignite students’ passion with a strong curriculum and pathway so they can thrive and are career-ready upon graduation.”

The R. Motwani Family Academy of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Broward College offers associate degrees in hospitality and tourism management and culinary arts management, as well as technical certificates in room division management, guest services specialist, food and beverage management, and event planning management. The FIU Connect4Success Partnership allows Broward College students to seamlessly transfer to FIU's Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management to continue their education and earn a bachelor’s degree. Additionally, more than 20 high schools in Broward County have hospitality, tourism, and management programs that provides a pipeline to Broward College.

“Broward College is committed to providing a quality, affordable education so students graduate with the skills they need to succeed,” said Barbara J. Bryan, Ph.D., President of Broward College. “We offer so many opportunities for Broward College students, like those enrolled in the R. Motwani Family Academy of Hospitality and Tourism Management, to become dynamic future leaders in our community.”

Sponsors of the gala included Uplifting Presenting Sponsors: Stearns Weaver Miller and Newmark; Elevating Students Sponsors: Bank of America, Bilzin Sumberg, Greenberg Traurig, LLC; OneWorld Properties, and Hotwire Communications; Investing in our Students Sponsors: Cleveland Clinic, Four Seasons Hotel and Residences Fort Lauderdale, Southern Glazer’s Wine and Spirits; Rick Case Automotive Group, and E11Even Miami; Student Empowerment Sponsors: AGI Capital Management, Broward Health, Coastal Construction, Conrad Fort Lauderdale Beach, Consolidated Credit, Debt.com, Driftwood Capital, FRLA Broward Chapter, FRLA Educational Foundation, Lockton, MRKT Collective LLC, Sitero LLC and The Wharf Fort Lauderdale; Student Opportunities Sponsors: City National Bank and Sprinklermatic Fire Protection Systems, Inc.; Elevating Education Sponsors: Bahia Mar Fort Lauderdale Beach, BankUnited, Leader Bank, Lochrie & Chakas, PA, Riemer Insurance Group, Inc., Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and ST Paper and ST Tissue; and Supporters: Bashful Daisy Florist, Beauchamp Construction Company, Inc. JetBlue, Leader Bank and Salma Merchant.

**ABOUT BROWARD COLLEGE:**

**Serving approximately 56,000 students annually, Broward College provides residents with certificate programs, two-year university-transfer degrees, two-year career degrees, and baccalaureate degrees in selected programs. The mission of the College is to provide high-quality educational programs and services that are affordable and accessible to a diverse community of learners. For more information, visit** [www.broward.edu](http://www.broward.edu)**.**

**ABOUT BROWARD COLLEGE FOUNDATION:**

**Established in 1971, the Broward College Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and the officially designated means of making private, charitable contributions to Broward College. Our purpose is to change lives through education by providing community awareness, advocacy, and funding to the college. For more information, visit** [browardcollegefoundation.org](https://www.browardcollegefoundation.org/)**.**

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