**IRISH HOSPITALITY INSTITUTE HONOURED EXCELLENCE AT THE**

**IHI FOUNDER’S EVENING & HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT AWARDS**

**24.11.2022 Clayton Hotel Burlington Road** – over 500 industry Hospitality and Tourism professionals gathered at the IHI Founder’s Evening & Hospitality Management Awards to celebrate 59 finalists and exceptional winners across 13 categories. The annual IHI Hospitality Management Awards are a recognition of the nominated person in their role, their capability, technical skills, innovation, passion and their ability to demonstrate continuous professional development.

**THE 2022 WINNERS ARE…**

**Graduate of the Year – Orla McAndrew, Shannon College of Hotel Management**

**Employee of the Year – Catherine O’Mahoney, Cork International Hotel**

**Young Manager of the Year – Florie Ghibaudo, Balfes, The Westbury**

**HR Manager and Training Manager of the Year – Shane Cox, Center Parcs**

**Catering Manager of the Year – Colette Carew, Sodexo**

**Finance Manager of the Year – Julie Daly, Trigon Hotels**

**Revenue Manager of the Year – Eithne Tighe, The Montenotte Hotel**

**Environmental & Facilities Manager of the Year, Declan Cunningham, Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa Sligo**

**Food & Beverage Manager of the Year – Karl Byrne, The Westbury**

**Sales & Marketing Manager of the Year – Megan Pardy, Trigon Hotels**

**Executive Head Chef of the Year – Gary Rogers, Carton House**

**Deputy General Manager of the Year – Anneliese Badescu, Jurys Inn & Leonardo Hotels**

**Hotel General Manager of the Year – Elaine Carolan, Radisson Blu, Dublin Airport**

**Brian Bowler, President of the IHI, said, ‘***This is a very special evening for the IHI, as we come together for this event for the first time in three years. Tonight, we celebrate 56 years of the IHI and 25 years of the IHI Hospitality Management Awards, but most importantly we celebrate our 59 finalists, for their, passion, professionalism, ability, energy and of course their excellence in what they do.*

*In a world of continual change, we recognise that it is our people that make Irish Hospitality and Tourism World renowned’.*

2022 attracted the highest number of applicants to-date across 18 counties and the awards were attended by 500+ industry professionals. The judging process allows IHI members to submit their chosen nominee. Thirteen panels of IHI judges made up of senior industry figures independently shortlisted the nominations. Nominees then proceeded to an interview stage where the judging panels based their final decision before the overall winners were announced at last night’s event.

IHI Fellowships were awarded to Conor O’Kane FIHI, Sharon Power Cowley FIHI, Alan Smullen FIHI and Joseph Higgins. Fáilte Ireland Chairperson, Paul Carty FIHI made a special appearance from Dubai to honour his friend and colleague Mr. Higgins.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dr. Phillip J. Smyth. Video tributes were played during the evening from across the globe from Dr. Smyth’s past pupils of Shannon College of Hotel Management.

Brian thanked the Judging panels, Sponsors, Patrons and Partners who all help in making the event the possible.

**For further information about the awards visit** [**www.ihi.ie**](http://www.ihi.ie)

**ENDS**

**For further information, please contact:**

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