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AmericInn Welcomes 2010 With New Leadership, New Direction

Former Development VP from Choice Hotels International signs on to lead AmericInn expansion program as parent company celebrates its 50th year in the hospitality business

CHANHASSEN, Minn., January 19, 2010 – AmericInn® is poised for growth in 2010, as the company welcomes another key addition to its leadership team.

Ron Burgett, with more than 20 years in hotel real estate and management, is joining AmericInn parent company Northcott Hospitality as executive vice president of development. His charge: lead AmericInn's aggressive expansion beyond its Midwestern roots.

“The AmericInn brand is looking ahead to strong growth opportunities this year,” Burgett said. “There has been a lack in renewal of licenses among major brands, so we'll be exploring the potential for targeted conversion projects.”

“While not ruling out any expansion targets,” Burgett said. “AmericInn aims to grow naturally from its Upper Midwest base into strategically targeted areas nationwide.”

Burgett's experience includes founding Hospitality Sales Group, a private consulting firm in real estate brokerage and hospitality. He spent 13 years in management with Choice Hotels International®, ultimately serving as national vice president of development.

At Choice, Burgett managed U.S. and Caribbean sales and development for Choice brands including Comfort Suites®, Comfort Inn®, Quality® Inns & Suites, Clarion®, Sleep Inn®, Mainstay Suites®, Suburban Extended Stay Hotel®, Econo Lodge® and Rodeway Inn®. Under his leadership, the world-class Choice development team posted several record sales years.

Burgett joins Paul Kirwin, recently named president and CEO of Northcott Hospitality after 25 years at CarlsonSM, a global hospitality and travel company. At Carlson, Kirwin served as president of the Americas division with 800 hotels operating or in development. Kirwin also led Carlson's expansion in Asia and was president of its Country Inn & SuitesSM hotel brand. During Kirwin's tenure with Country Inn & Suites, the brand grew from 8 locations to more than 400 locations in multiple countries.

Kirwin and Burgett, both proven leaders at growing successful hotel brands, also have hands-on experience in hospitality as managers of individual hotel and restaurant properties.

“We understand the challenges and commitment it takes to run a hotel,” Kirwin said. “Northcott is unique in the industry as we have experience building, owning and operating a diverse portfolio of properties. In addition, we’re fortunate to have an active group of franchisees who have outperformed their peer group by many measurements in a very challenging environment. We’re now ready to welcome more first-rate operators into the AmericInn family.”

As AmericInn looks to the future, parent company Northcott Hospitality is celebrating its 50th year in the hotel and restaurant business. Founded with an investment in a single Perkins[®] Pancake House restaurant, Northcott has grown in 50 years to include AmericInn, a mid-scale hotel chain with more than 250 locations open or under development, 21 Perkins restaurants, and four Houlihan’s[®] restaurants.

Today, Northcott proudly provides superior hospitality services to customers in 27 states.

“With the addition of Ron Burgett to our leadership team, AmericInn and Northcott are ready to write the next chapter in our 50-year growth story,” Kirwin said. “We welcome the challenge of building for the next 50 years.”

About Northcott

Minnesota-based Northcott Hospitality builds, develops, and operates successful restaurant and lodging concepts throughout the United States. From its roots as owner and developer of the popular Perkins[®] brand to celebrating its 50th year in business, privately-held Northcott maintains a superior reputation for excellent products and services in the lodging and restaurant industries. Its holdings include the AmericInn[®] chain of more than 250 hotels, Perkins and Houlihan’s[®] restaurants strategically located throughout the country. For more information, visit www.northcotthospitality.com or call 952-294-5000.

About AmericInn

AmericInn[®] is a mid-scale lodging chain with 250 locations currently open or under development in 22 states. The chain is dedicated to the concept of providing the best lodging value for its guests by offering great rates and amenities such as oversized rooms, complimentary AmericInn Perk hot breakfast, fitness rooms, swimming pools and wireless Internet. AmericInn competes across the mid-scale (without food or beverage) segment, representing an attractive, high-quality new build or conversion option complete with a trusted partner to help build the business from the ground up. AmericInn is franchised by Northcott Hospitality, owner and developer of successful franchised hospitality brands for more than 50 years. For more information on franchise opportunities, visit www.Americinn.com or call 1-866-337-6082.