



Contact:
Ginger Vaughan
(ginger@quinnbrein.com)
206-842-8922

The Point Casino & Hotel Hires Director of Operations

David Malone brings decades of hospitality experience to Port Gamble S'Klallam-owned property opening late 2016

The Noo-Kayet Development Corporation (NKDC), the tribal enterprise charged with economic development for the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe (PGST), has announced the hiring of David N. Malone as its Director of Hotel Operations for the The Point Casino & Hotel. The Point Hotel is expected to open late this year and Malone's appointment is the first full-time position filled at the new property.

Malone comes to The Point Casino & Hotel with close to three decades experience in hotel and hospitality management, which includes opening new properties and being charged with turning struggling hotels around.

"Dave's background and experience is an ideal match for The Point Hotel. We have no doubt that we've chosen the best person for the job," said Point Casino General Manager Leo Culloo, who lead the extensive search for the property's Director.

Malone began his career working with Holiday Corporation, where he assisted opening the first three west coast locations of the brand's Hampton Inns chain. Soon after, he began working at Marriott where he managed multiple Courtyard and Fairfield Inn locations in California, Arizona, and Washington. He quickly established himself as someone who could work to make any hotel a success by focusing on the customer experience. For example, one Courtyard, located in a high-crime area in southern California, was rated the sixth worst in the chain nationwide when Malone took over management. Within six months, the property was in the top 10 of all Courtyard hotels in the U.S. based on guest satisfaction surveys.

"Running a hotel successfully—whether a new or existing location—is flat-out about being there, working your tail off, and leading by example. Problems, more often than not, stem from a lack of leadership," said Malone. He also stresses the importance of listening to employees

and making sure they feel respected in the workplace. “The employees can make or break the customer experience. You have to listen to their insight,” he said.

In 2005, Malone moved his family to Alaska to work as Hotel General Manager for Shee Atiká Incorporated, the urban Native Corporation for Sitka. His position included managing all aspects of the organization’s commercial real estate operations, such as its hotel holdings. Malone later managed the multimillion dollar renovation of the tribally-owned Goldbelt Hotel in Juneau. Most recently, Malone was the Executive Director for the Port of Kingston.

In his new position with The Point Casino & Hotel, Malone will manage and oversee all aspects of the Hotel’s operations, including accounting, human resources, sales, and maintenance.

“This Hotel has been a long time in the making. Every detail has been considered and then reconsidered. This is a really important project not just for the Port Gamble S’Klallams, but also for tourism to the area,” said Chris Placentia, CEO, NKDC. “Dave has the skills and experience to help us create a guest experience that will fully realize our vision of The Point Hotel becoming a destination location.”

About The Point Casino & Hotel

The Point Hotel is a four-story, 94-room property that will offer a boutique experience with the amenities of a larger hotel in the heart of North Kitsap County. Adjacent to The Point Casino, the Hotel will offer a multi-media capable meeting space that will accommodate up to 100 people, indoor/outdoor lounge, and a large outdoor gathering area with an outdoor kitchen and fire pit. Throughout, the property will feature tribally-influenced and inspired art, including a series of totem poles in the courtyard and photographs depicting PGST culture and/or the Natural World in all guest rooms. Guests will be greeted by a four-story “paddles up” (a traditional PGST greeting) steel structure as they arrive at the property.

The Point Casino & Hotel project broke ground on September 10, 2015 with the Hotel expected to open late 2016. For more information, please visit <http://www.the-point-casino.com/hotel/>.

About The Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe

The Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, originally known as the Nux Sklai Yem or Strong People, are descendants of the Salish people who have been well-established in the Puget Sound basin and surrounding areas since 2400 B.C. In the late 1930s, the Port Gamble S’Klallam reservation, located on the northern tip of the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington State, was established. Many of the Tribe’s members, who total about twelve hundred, still live there today.

For more information about the S’Klallam Tribe, please visit www.pgst.nsn.us.

###

