



Las Vegas' Top Industry Professionals Raise a Glass and Toast to Las Vegas Business Academy's Fifth Annual Fundraiser

LAS VEGAS – Yesterday (Oct. 21), Las Vegas' top hospitality and business executives, chefs and community leaders two-stepped the night away at "Square Dancing on the Strip," the fifth annual fundraiser for **Las Vegas Business Academy (LVBA)**, founded in 2011 by **Rino Armeni**. More than 400 guests joined the LVBA under the starry sky on **T-Mobile Arena's Toshiba Plaza** to raise scholarship funds for **University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)** students pursuing a law degree (JD) or Masters degree in hospitality administration (MHA), engineering (MEng) or business administration (MBA).

The evening began with a private VIP reception for top community leaders and LVBA board members, including **Steve Arcana**, chief operating officer of Golden Entertainment; **Chris Baldizan**, senior vice president of entertainment booking and development for MGM Resorts International; **Paul Sinowitz**, vice president of global sourcing at MGM Resorts International; **Ryan Voss**, vice president of beverage at Caesars Entertainment Corporation; **Dominique Bertolone**, executive director of food and beverage at Bellagio; **Julian Griffiths**, vice president of food and beverage at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas; and more. Guests mingled while sampling signature dishes from Las Vegas restaurants, including **Bouchon, Briggs Oyster Co., Capital Grille, Hakkasan, Herringbone, Kona Grill, Milos, Old Homestead, Rao's, Scarpetta, Stripsteak, Tacos & Tequila, T-Bones, Veranda** and more.

During the intimate gathering, **Rino Armeni**, chairman and founder of the LVBA and president of Armeni Enterprises, presented the Griffin Award to **Jan Jones Blackhurst**, executive vice president of government relations and corporate responsibility for Caesars Entertainment Corporation. The Griffin Award is presented a member of the community who displays tremendous work ethic and integrity that serves as an inspiration to Las Vegas' future leaders.

Following the event, table sponsors traveled inside the T-Mobile Area to dance the night away at the Keith Urban concert.

For more information about LVBA and how to get involved, visit www.lvbanv.org or follow LVBA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Photo Captions:

LVBA Fundraiser2016 1: Las Vegas Business Academy (LVBA) scholarship recipients celebrate the fifth annual fundraiser with Max Tappeiner, LVBA president; Loni Gray, LVBA chief administrative officer; and Jan Jones Blackhurst, Griffin Award honoree.

LVBA Fundraiser2016 2: Las Vegas top chefs joined the Las Vegas Business Academy to serve their signature cuisine to the fifth annual fundraiser guests.

LVBA Fundraiser2016 3: Las Vegas Business Academy Chairman and Founder, Rino Armeni, presents Jan Jones Blackhurst of Caesars Entertainment Corporation with the Griffin Award.

LVBA Fundraiser2016 4: Las Vegas Business Academy students, Brooke Luna and Daven Cameron, are celebrated for being inducted into the State Bar of Nevada after graduating from UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law.

LVBA Fundraiser2016 5: Attendees join dancers to celebrate the fifth annual fundraiser, “Square Dancing on the Strip.”

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About Las Vegas Business Academy:

Founded in 2011 by Rino Armeni, Las Vegas Business Academy (LVBA) is a nonprofit organization devoted to providing scholarship funds for students pursuing a law degree or master’s degree in business or hospitality management at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). LVBA’s program offers selected college students educational enrichment, professional development, financial aid and unparalleled mentoring resources with top-tier industry leaders in an effort to establish Nevada’s next generation of leaders. For more information, visit Las Vegas Business Academy’s [website](#) or call 702.998.2138.

Follow LVBA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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