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**Hospitality Industry Veteran Mike Brunkow  
Named General Manager of Northland Inn**

***Brunkow to Lead Renovation of Twin Cities Hotel and Conference Center***

**BROOKLYN PARK, Minn. (Jan. 18, 2011)** – [Northland Inn Hotel and Conference Center](#) today named hospitality industry veteran, Mike Brunkow, to the position of general manager. Brunkow brings more than 30 years of hotel management experience to the all-suite hotel located in the Minneapolis suburb of Brooklyn Park, Minn.

“Mike brings valuable leadership skills and extensive hospitality experience that will serve us well as we build our team and work to reclaim the hotel’s prominence in the marketplace,” said Thomas Russo, chief executive officer, [StepStone Hospitality](#), which took over management of the hotel in late 2010.

In his new position, Brunkow will oversee the hotel’s renovation efforts planned for 2011 and provide stable management for the hotel, which ran into financial trouble before it was purchased by [Hotel Asset Value Enhancement Inc.](#) in October 2010. The Rhode Island-based company -- one of the nation’s largest hotel real estate advisory firms -- works closely with its sister company, StepStone Hospitality.

To achieve these goals, Brunkow will use his own “Triangle of Excellence” philosophy.

“The Triangle of Excellence means that we address the needs of the guests, employees and owners to successfully establish the hotel as a vital partner in the community,” explained Brunkow. “I am excited to bring this concept to the Northland Inn and all of its stakeholders to ensure that we have a long, bright future.”

An award-winning hospitality executive, Brunkow brings more than three decades of diverse hotel management experience in corporate, convention and resort hotel operations to his position. Most recently he served as managing director for The Hotel Minneapolis, a full-service hotel located in downtown Minneapolis. In this position he was responsible for the opening and operation of the 222-room hotel. While there, he received some of the company’s highest rankings for quality assurance and guest service.

Brunkow also managed the 300-room Hilton Hotel Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport/Mall of America and a 345-room international resort in Queensland, Australia. He was honored as the 2006 Volunteer of the Year by the Greater Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. He was recognized as General Manager of the Year from among 300 Radisson hotels for performance exceeding expectations of guests, employees and owners.

**About the Northland Inn**

With more than 33,000 square feet of meeting space, including two ballrooms, 140-seat amphitheatre, executive board room and 25 meeting break-out rooms, the Northland Inn

is one of the largest meetings hotels in Minnesota and the only all-suite meetings hotel capable of handling meetings for up to 850 guests.

Conveniently situated at the intersection of Interstate 94 and Boone Avenue, the Northland Inn is just minutes from downtown Minneapolis and St. Paul. The hotel has 231 two-room and three-room suites featuring some of the most spacious guestrooms in the Upper Midwest.

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***Editors' Note:*** Images of the Northland Inn and Mike Brunkow are available upon request.

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