



Barry Kuhnke

General Manager

**Lexington Marriott City Center
& Residence Inn Lexington City
Lexington, Kentucky**

Meet Barry

What is your name?

Barry Kuhnke

Where do you currently work and what is your position?

Lexington Marriott City Center & Residence Inn
Lexington City Center - General Manager

What are some of your daily tasks at work?

I responsible daily to function as the strategic business leader of the hotels with responsibility for all aspects of the operation, including guest and employee satisfaction, human resources, financial performance, sales and revenue generation and delivering a return on investment to ownership. I am responsible to drive and implement the brand service strategy, and initiatives each day with the objective to meet and exceed guest expectations, as well as increased profit and market

share. I am also responsible each day to lead and hold the executive committee accountable for strategy execution, and guide them in their professional development.

What do you love most/enjoy most about your job?

The interaction with the people. I get to work with a diverse team each day, and get to meet guests each day who are visiting from places all over the world.

Where else have you worked and what were your positions?

TownePlace Suites by Marriott Minneapolis West, General Manager. Courtyard by Marriott Fargo/Moorhead, General Manager. AC Hotel by Marriott Cincinnati at Liberty Center, General Manager. Marriott Memphis East, General Manager. Omaha Marriott, General Manager

When did you graduate from NDSU & what degree(s) did you graduate with (especially for those who graduated before the program was Hospitality and Tourism Management)?

2003 - B.S., Hospitality & Tourism Management

What was your most rewarding class taken at NDSU through our program? Why did it make an impact?

Hospitality Law & Accounting - These course challenged me, but I learned a great deal about running the business.

What was your favorite part about attending NDSU and our program?

I enjoyed the faculty, in particular Dr. Mort Sarabakhsh and Adjunct Professor Heidi Wilcox. The passion, and the ability to help apply the courses to real life work experience helped drive my career.

Any advice for current students who want to succeed in our industry (especially those in your segment of the industry)?

I would suggest gaining experience as early as you can. I feel it will help you apply your coursework to real life experience, but it will also help you market yourself after graduation.

If a student or fellow alumni would like to connect with you, what is your preferred method?

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