

Michael Phillips has worked in the hospitality industry for the past 32 years, with the last 22 years being in Lakeland. He started his hospitality career as a Guest Service Representative at the Fairfield Inn by Marriott - Charlotte Airport. Michael worked his way through the ranks as he worked in Greenville, South Carolina; Memphis, Tennessee; and Melbourne, Florida. He assumed his first General Manager position was at the Fairfield Inn by Marriott – Gainesville in 1998. Next, he was promoted to the General Manager position at the Fairfield Inn by Marriott – Atlanta Northwest, which was the host hotel of the Fairfield Inn Manager Training Center. In 2000, he moved to back to Florida to open the Courtyard by Marriott – Key West Waterfront. Then, in 2002, he relocated to Lakeland as the General Manager of the Courtyard by Marriott – Lakeland. He has been a General Manager in Lakeland for most of the time since. Most of the last 22 years, he has served as the General Manager at the Courtyard by Marriott (2002-2013, 2021 – present). Following his initial tenure at the Courtyard, Michael opened a Fairfield Inn by Marriott in Delray Beach. Preferring to live in Lakeland, Michael returned to Lakeland as the opening General Manager of the Staybridge Suites and then accepted the General Manager position at the Residence Inn by Marriott in 2018. He was a Dual Property General Manager of the Residence Inn and the Courtyard from 2021-2023, until ownership of the Residence Inn was sold to another hotel management company. Throughout his 22 years working in Lakeland, Michael has been an active member of the Lakeland Hotel & Motel Association, serving on the Board of Directors for most of those years, and also serving terms as President, Vice-President, and Treasurer over the years. Michael was a charter member of the LBA Hospitality General Manager’s Advisory Committee, and has trained many hotel managers throughout his career. In his spare time, Michael enjoys reading, camping, and traveling with his wife and 2 teenage children. Michael was born and raised in North Carolina and is a 1983 graduate of the University of North Carolina.