

**Fernando Cuellar, CHA**

General Manager

Hilton University of Houston

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A seasoned hotelier with 40 years of experience in the industry, Fernando Cuellar has a passion for top-notch service. Whether it's serving green apples to Sophia Loren or consulting on the details of a wine list, Fernando has an eye for the nuances of hospitality, and brings that expertise to his position as general manager of the Hilton University of Houston Hotel and Conference Center.

Fernando, a native of Colombia, has worked for luxurious hotels across the country, including the Mayflower Hotel in Washington D.C. and the former Four Seasons Olympic Hotel in Seattle. Most recently, he spent 11 years as general manager of the Renaissance Houston Greenway Plaza Hotel and a year as GM of The Lancaster Hotel in Houston. He also has worked for Westin Hotels & Resorts, Marriott Hotels, Omni Hotels, Four Seasons Hotels and Rosewood Hotels, among others.

In his long career, Fernando has learned every facet of the hotel business and wants to give students at the Conrad N. Hilton College similar opportunities to learn the industry. Under his leadership, the hotel and College are launching a Student Leadership Program, in which students will spend 16 weeks in a rotational internship working in every area of the hotel.

Fernando is a Certified Hotel Administrator from the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute and a graduate of Oklahoma State University's Hotel and Restaurant Management program. He is a past president of the Greater Houston Lodging Association and a member of Chaines des Rotisseurs, a food and wine society. He is married to Debbie and has two grown children, Lauren and Cristina.