

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 16, 2012 CONTACT:

Megan Licata Fry Hammond Barr (407) 284.6604 MLicata@fhbnet.com

SPECIALTY MARKET AND DIVERSITY MEETINGS ENHANCED AT THE PEABODY ORLANDO

Orlando, Fla. ... The Peabody Orlando is pleased to announce Karen A. Harvey has joined its award-winning sales team to enhance its services for the specialty markets. Harvey, national sales manager at The Peabody Orlando, engages with professional meeting planners, organizational and community leadership, as well as individuals to create personalized and memorable events at the nation's number one meetings hotel as ranked by Cvent.

Unrivaled in her commitment to cultivate relationships within diversity communities, Harvey has demonstrated success in organizing events that inspire, captivate and connect attendees. Her approach, combined with the hotel's signature Peabody Service Excellence[®] standards ensure clients needs are both anticipated and fulfilled.

"With more than 1,700 groups hosted at our hotel each year, it is vital that we recruit the brightest and most dynamic sales professionals," said Gregg Herning, vice president of sales and marketing for Peabody Hotels. "Harvey's experience, community involvement and warm personality are essential qualities that will help us identify groups whose meetings and events experiences can be enhanced with our amenities and service. We are excited for all that she will accomplish for these markets."

Harvey most recently served as National Account Manager, Citywide Team with Visit Orlando, the destination's sales and marketing organization. In her previous roles with Visit Orlando, she sought opportunities to develop SMERF and diversity markets and maintained relationships with national organizations' local branches and chapters. Currently, she serves as Hostess Committee Chair as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Psi Theta Omega Chapter, Metro-Orlando Chapter and general member of the NAACP Brevard County branch.

Recently, specialty markets have experienced resurgence in members' desires to connect with personalized programs at unique destinations. The Peabody Orlando provides SMERF and diversity markets with exceptional amenities and services, as well as its current CONNECTS <u>incentives</u> that offer unprecedented support to engage attendees in meetings and events.

For more information about booking meetings and events at The Peabody Orlando, please visit <u>www.peabodymeetings.com</u>.

###

Editor's Notes: Photo 1: <u>Headshot of Karen Harvey</u>

About The Peabody Orlando:

The Peabody Orlando, opened in November 1986, is a staple in the Orlando-area convention and tourism industry and famous for its Peabody Ducks. The hotel, which is ranked the number one meetings hotel in the United States by Cvent, has received the prestigious *Forbes Travel Guide* Four Star rating for 23 consecutive years. Located directly across from and adjacent to the Orange County Convention Center and in the heart of the International Drive entertainment district, The Peabody Orlando currently offers 1,641 ultra-luxurious guestrooms, 300,000 total square feet of state-of-the-art, flexible function space, a 22,000-square-foot, full-service spa, salon and fitness center and ten delectable dining and entertainment options. Peabody Hotels, comprising The Peabody Orlando, The Peabody Memphis and The Peabody Little Rock (all Forbes Travel Guide Four Star rated hotels) is a division within the portfolio Peabody Hotel Group of Memphis, Tennessee. To learn more, please visit www.PeabodyOrlando.com or www.PeabodyMeetings.com, connect on Facebook or follow on Twitter.