

Hospitality & Tourism

The Hospitality & Tourism Career Cluster includes careers that allow you to travel and work with a variety of people. Careers can be found all over the world and range anywhere from hotel and restaurant operations to working in amusement parks and other tourist destinations. Excellent customer service skills are essential for everyone in this field [careertech.org].

Each year Nicole Sanchez is responsible for coordinating up to 50 events for the Washington Wizards and Washington Mystics, professional basketball teams based in Washington, D.C.

Events are held for the teams' owners and season ticket members. One of her favorite events is when major and minority owners and members with courtside seat accounts attend an opposing team's game with all expenses paid. This past year the trip was to a Clippers game in Los Angeles.

"I coordinated that whole event," Nicole says, including flights, hotels, and dinner reservations.

Nicole was drawn to her current line of work when she took a sports marketing class at Mount Vernon High School. Her decision to pursue sports marketing was further solidified when the class went on a field trip to a Washington Wizards game and met Steve Zarick, senior manager of group sales for the Washington Wizards.

She likes that her job changes daily, allows her to be creative, and provides her with growth opportunities.

"We also have one of the best work atmospheres out there," she says. "We're more like a family than coworkers and that makes the long, 12-hour game days so much better to deal with."

by Veronica Garabelli



Photo by Mark Rhodes

What they make

Occupation	Employed in Va. ¹	Median wage ²	Predominant level of education
Cooks, restaurant	28,232	\$22,650	High school diploma, certification
Supervisors of food service workers	23,921	\$31,940	High school diploma
Recreation workers	12,626	\$21,820	Bachelor's degree
Hosts and hostesses, restaurant and related	10,243	\$18,540	High school diploma
Supervisors of housekeeping workers	8,876	\$33,850	High school diploma
Bartenders	8,351	\$25,910	Associate degree
Cooks, institution and cafeteria	8,310	\$23,490	High school diploma
Cooks, fast food	7,728	\$18,610	High school diploma
Hotel, motel, and resort desk clerks	6,709	\$19,810	High school diploma
Amusement and recreation attendants	5,891	\$18,320	High school diploma
Meeting, convention, and event planners	4,204	\$55,310	Bachelor's degree
Food service managers	5,004	\$56,290	High school diploma
Bakers	2,879	\$24,770	High school diploma, certification
Chefs and head cooks	2,844	\$39,200	High school diploma
Tour guides and escorts	1,781	\$22,590	Bachelor's degree, certification
Travel agents	1,899	\$42,140	Associate degree, certification
Lodging managers	1,503	\$57,870	Bachelor's degree
Concierges	1,321	\$28,330	High school diploma, certification

¹2012 ²2013

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Virginia Employment Commission, Trailblazers

Nicole Sanchez

**Manager, Events and Programs,
Washington Wizards and Washington
Mystics, Washington, D.C.**

High school: Mount Vernon High School,
Fairfax County Public Schools

CTE studies: Sports, Entertainment, and
Recreation Marketing



For more information about career planning, visit the CTE Resource Center's Web site.

