



**Chris Hardman, MGHM** Director of Membership, Georgia Hotel and Lodging Association

Chris Hardman serves as the Director of Membership for the Georgia Hotel and Lodging Association (GHLA) representing the states lodging industry. In addition to Hardman's role overseeing membership, he also serves as one of GHLA's registered lobbyist. GHLA acts as the unified voice for the 1,880 hotel and lodging properties in the state of Georgia generating roughly \$38.2 billion in direct sales and supports 247,319 jobs.

Hardman graduated with Summa Cum Laude honors and a BBA in Hospitality Administration from Georgia State University (GSU). Hardman then went on to receive his Master's in Global Hospitality Management from GSU. Prior to working with GHLA, Hardman was the Research Associate for Georgia Capitol Associates, advocating on behalf of the hospitality and tourism industry, and served four years as the Member Development Executive and a registered lobbyist for the Georgia Restaurant Association, representing one of the largest industries in the state. Most recently, Hardman was selected into GSU's 40 Under 40 Class of 2019. In addition to Hardman's work with GHLA, he volunteers his time in many capacities including the Advisory Board for NOSH Talks, Board of Directors on TEAM Georgia, Board of Directors on the Georgia Mountain Food Bank, and former Chair of the Hospitality Syndicate.

As the second largest private sector employer, Georgia's hospitality and tourism industry supports nearly 460,000 jobs and generates more than \$63 Billion in annual economic impact. Hardman has spent his career and will continue to devote his time in creating a better environment for hospitality and tourism businesses in Georgia.

