SALLY J. SMITH  
President & Chief Executive Officer, Buffalo Wild Wings, Inc.

As President and Chief Executive Officer of Minneapolis-based Buffalo Wild Wings, Inc., Sally J. Smith leads one of the nation’s fastest-growing national restaurant chains, which includes more than 850 restaurants in 48 states and two countries.

Smith joined Buffalo Wild Wings as Chief Financial Officer in 1994 when it was a fledgling chain of 35 restaurants, mostly in Ohio. With her keen financial and leadership skills and a healthy dose of tenacity, Smith worked to establish a sound infrastructure and build the talented team that has helped the company grow from a regional chain to a thriving national brand.

Recently inducted into the 2012 Minnesota Business Hall of Fame, Smith’s exceptional achievements and leadership were also recognized by the restaurant industry in 2010 when she received the Multi-Unit Foodservice Operators (MUFSO) Operator of the Year Award. In 2009, she was honored with another one of the industry’s highest awards, the Gold Plate Award, presented by the International Food Manufacturer’s Association (IFMA).

Other prestigious honors and awards earned by Smith include: Twin Cities Business magazine’s Minnesota Business Hall of Fame inductee in 2012; Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal Women in Business Career Achievement Award for 2010; Restaurants & Institutions magazine’s Restaurant Executive of the Year in 2005; the Sioux Award, the highest honor given to alumni at the University of North Dakota, in 2004; Nation’s Restaurant News Golden Chain Award in 2003; North Dakota Innovator of the year in 2002; and Ernst & Young’s Entrepreneur of the Year for the Midwest Region in 2001.

Under Smith’s leadership, Buffalo Wild Wings also has received numerous awards and distinctions. In 2010, Entrepreneur named the company to their Fastest Growing Franchises list and Technomic ranked the brand third on their list of Top 10 Fastest-Growing Restaurant Chains with sales over $200 million. In addition, Buffalo Wild Wings earned rankings on Forbes magazine’s list of 200 Best Small Companies from 2007 through 2011 and Fortune magazine’s 100 Fastest Growing Companies list in 2008, 2009 and 2011. Restaurant and Institutions selected Buffalo Wild Wings as Chain of the Year in 2007.

Prior to joining Buffalo Wild Wings, Smith sharpened her business acumen with positions at the international accounting and consulting firm, KPMG, LLP, and during her 11 years at the national franchise company, Dahlberg, Inc. (now Miracle-Ear, Inc.), where she ended her tenure as Chief Financial Officer.

A native of Grand Forks, North Dakota, Smith is a graduate of the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration and Accounting, and she is a CPA. She served as the 2011 Chairman of the National Restaurant Association Board of Directors. She is a director of Alerus Financial Corporation, Allina Hospital System, the Minnesota Orchestra and also is a member of World Presidents' Organization and Women Corporate Directors.

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