

Panelists at 11th Jersey Shorecast Predict Strong 2019 Season at the Shore

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Atlantic City, N.J. – A strong economy, low unemployment, and diverse offerings should make 2019 a good summer for the Jersey Shore, a panel of experts said at the 11th annual Jersey Shorecast, sponsored by the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming,

Keynote speaker Mark Callazzo, CEO of Alpha Funding Solutions and a primary developer along Tennessee Avenue, said he wants to help create a new Atlantic City where people want to work, live and play. As owner of The Iron Room Restaurant, a co-owner of Tennessee Beer Hall, Callazzo is preparing to open a music venue, Rhythm and Spirits, this summer.

He said Millennials don't want to just stay in one place, they want to walk around, and bar hop, and he cited all of the businesses in the so-called "Orange Loop" (a reference to the streets that are coded orange in Monopoly - Tennessee Ave., New York Ave. and St. James Place) as working together to create a successful experience for visitors.

"We hope to draw people off the Boardwalk this summer," Callazzo said. "We are all working together to make this a go-to area to live, work and play."

Sandi Harvey, vice president of sales for Meet AC, said conference bookings are strong and they look to build on esports and the education market like Stockton to attract new events. She said the re-opening of the NJ Transit rail line between Atlantic City and Philadelphia is welcomed, even if it will be more limited.

"It's a huge selling point that you can get here from Philadelphia for \$10," she said.

She said so far Meet AC has booked 150,000 room nights for 2019, with an ambitious goal of 360,000.

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of sales and marketing at Seaview Dolce Hotel and Golf Club, Sandi Harvey, vice president of sales for Meet AC, and Oliver Cooke, Stockton Associate Professor of Economics.

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Stockton University

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