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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Excellence Recognized at Annual Conference

La Grange – On January 29, 2016 the Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) honored several individuals for their commitment and excellent service to parks and recreation in Illinois. During the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference, IPRA recognized the following for their contributions:

IPRA Professional of the Year Award: Margaret Resnick, Mundelein Park and Recreation District

The Professional of the Year Award is an honor presented to an individual with more than eight years of full-time service and has made a major contribution to the park and recreation profession. The award recognizes a person who has shown excellence in promoting parks and recreation on local and regional levels, and someone who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty.

IPRA Young Professional Award: Jason Posluszny, Fox Valley Special Recreation Association

The Young Professional of the Year Award recognizes an up-and-coming leader in the field of parks and recreation and is given to an individual with less than eight years of experience, but someone who shows a great deal of promise in becoming a future leader in the field.

IPRA Advocacy Award: News-Gazette Family of Companies

The IPRA Advocacy Award recognizes an individual or organization whose contributions have made a significant and consistent impact on the parks and recreation field.

IPRA Community Impact Award: Jay Lerner, Waukegan Park District

The IPRA Community Impact Award is presented to a current Illinois park and recreation professional who has made a significant impact in the community they serve through their involvement with local, community, non-profit, and business organizations or government agencies.

IPRA Robert Artz Lifetime Achievement Award: Carolyn Nagle, Fox Valley Special Recreation Association

The Robert Artz Lifetime Achievement Award is named in honor of Robert Artz who, in 1979, was the newly-hired executive director of IAPD. He was on American Airlines Flight 191 to Los Angeles when it crashed outside O'Hare International Airport leaving no survivors. Robert Artz left a legacy for IPRA as a champion of all that we do and all that we stand for. His award goes to a person with a minimum of 25 years as a full time professional in the field (with over 15 years served in Illinois) whose efforts & contributions have a lasting value and effect on parks and recreation.

Established in 1944, the Illinois Park and Recreation Association's mission is to provide and promote exceptional standards of education, networking, and resources for all professionals in the Illinois park, recreation, and conservation communities. For more information about IPRA, its board and mission, please call us or visit the IPRA website: www.ilipra.org

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