



## Champaign Park District

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For Immediate Release – December 9, 2013

### ***DeLuce named Champaign Park District Executive Director***

The Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners has appointed Joe DeLuce Executive Director of the Champaign Park District effective January 1, 2014. Mr. DeLuce will succeed Bobbie Herakovich who is retiring after serving the Park District for twelve years.

Mr. DeLuce brings over 33 years of experience in parks and recreation to his new position. He has worked for the Champaign Park District for the past 16 years as the Director of Recreation and as Deputy Director since September. DeLuce previously was Executive Director of the Macon County Georgia Sports Commission and Director of Parks and Recreation in Hallandale Florida. Prior to Hallandale, DeLuce was the Parks and Recreation Superintendent in Broward County, where he managed three regional parks and nine community parks. He began his career in his hometown of Toronto, Ohio after graduating from Kent State University in Parks and Recreation. DeLuce also received a Master's Degree from the University of Illinois in Parks and Recreation Administration. He has participated in numerous national schools and professional associations having most recently served on the Illinois Parks and Recreation Association Board and as an evaluator of national park and recreation service standards throughout the country.

Joe Petry, President of the Champaign Park Board, stated, "Because of the outstanding national reputation of the Champaign Park District, the Board felt it was important to conduct a national search to ensure the best candidate was chosen to lead our staff and meet the open space, trails and recreational needs of our residents. We were looking for someone with strong facilitation and collaborative skills to lead with vision and enthusiasm. We are very confident we have found the right person."

A high priority for DeLuce will be to work with the Board, staff and Champaign residents to continue to provide a superior level of service. DeLuce stated, "I am honored and excited to have this opportunity to lead the Champaign Park District. We have outstanding staff and volunteers and I am very proud of the services we provide to our residents."

DeLuce, his wife, Jayne, and their daughters Jenna and Jordan reside in Champaign. DeLuce becomes only the fourth Executive Director in the Champaign Park District's history succeeding Herakovich and Robert Toalson who combined served for the last 45 years.