

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Contact: Heather Weishaar, Outreach Director, 708-588-2282

IPRA Announces New Staff

La Grange - The Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) is pleased to announce the addition of Duane Smith, CPRP to the IPRA staff team. Duane will serve as the Education and Events Coordinator.



Duane served as Recreation Supervisor at the Mokena Community Park District for almost ten years. His main responsibilities included coordinating all youth, teen, and adult athletic programs, facilitating outdoor athletic field rentals, and acting as the park district liaison for the Lincoln-Way Special Recreation Association and community affiliate sport groups.

He is a graduate of IPRA's iLEARN program and Level II Leadership Academy, and he is currently participating in IPRA's ProConnect program. Also, in collaboration with other professionals, he's prepared and presented topics for the annual IAPD/IPRA *Soaring to New Heights* Conference in each of the last four

years. He previously served on the IPRA Athletic and Professional Services Committees, and he is also a former Chair for the Athletic and Program Committees of the South Suburban Parks and Recreation Professional Association. He is the recipient of the South Suburban Parks and Recreation Professional Association 2014-2015 Professional of the Year award, and the Mokena Community Park District's 2012 Young Professional of the Year award.

Along with being a Certified Youth Sports Administrator from the National Alliance for Youth Sports, Duane is also a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional (CPRP). A graduate of North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, Duane has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science and Secondary Education. He currently resides in Evergreen Park with his wife Kelsey and children, Tessa and Brody.

Says Duane upon accepting this new position, *"I'm extremely excited to be joining the wonderful IPRA team and working with all the talented and hard-working park district professionals throughout the state of Illinois."*



536 East Avenue / La Grange, Illinois 60525 / P 708.588.2280 / F 708.354.0535 / ilpra.org

“We are pleased to begin this new position for IPRA to support our growing education and conference programming. Duane will be a great addition to the team, bringing the member perspective to our planning and vision for these programs.” – Debbie Trueblood, IPRA Executive Director.

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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