



## KENTUCKY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Amanda Storment  
Vice President of Communications  
Kentucky State Fair Board  
(502) 367-5180  
astorment@ksfb.ky.gov

Ryne Dunkelberger  
Social Media and Communications Manager  
Kentucky State Fair Board  
502 367-5186  
rdunkelberger@ksfb.ky.gov

## KENTUCKY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW GENERAL MANAGER

Position Strengthens and Supports Downtown Louisville Relationships

**LOUISVILLE, KY (July 8, 2014)** – The Kentucky State Fair Board has named Linda Edwards Vice President and General Manager of the Kentucky International Convention Center.

Edwards, a longtime executive at the fair board, was most recently Vice President of Sales and Marketing. Edwards was responsible for booking nearly 400 events each year at both the convention center and the Kentucky Exposition Center.

“This is a very high profile and important position in the tourism industry. Linda brings tremendous enthusiasm, solid experience, and strong client relationships to the job,” said Clifford “Rip” Rippetoe, president and CEO of the Kentucky State Fair Board. “She is ideal to oversee the upcoming expansion and renovation of the convention center.”

Edwards, a Louisville native, joined the staff of the Kentucky State Fair Board in 1994. During her tenure, the National FFA Convention left Kansas City after 70 years, bringing 60,000 young people and \$40 million in economic impact to Louisville and the Kentucky Exposition Center. Recently, she worked with Louisville Metro Police Department and the Mayor’s Office to open a police substation inside the convention center.

With more than 40 years of experience in the hospitality and tourism industry, she has also held management positions with the Theater Square project, Seelbach Hotel and The Brown Hotel.

Edward’s role as general manager will include overseeing all overall management of the center, as well as sales and marketing, tenant relations, operations, finance, and customer service and the planned facility expansion. She will also work closely with the downtown Louisville community, the Mayor’s Office, the Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau and other metro government officials.

“I enthusiastically support Linda in this role and the appointment is richly deserved,” said Bob Stewart, secretary of the Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet.

“As a veteran of this business, she has the experience to make educated decisions and the leadership skills to make positive changes,” said Karen Williams, president and CEO of the Louisville Convention and Visitors Bureau. “As a person, she is passionate and dedicated and we are so pleased to see her in this role.”

The Kentucky State Fair Board owns and operates two properties, the Kentucky Exposition Center and the Kentucky International Convention Center, which hosts numerous meetings, trade shows and events. The convention center has recently hosted events such as the National FFA Convention, USA Gymnastics, VFW Convention and the United Methodist Women’s Assembly.

The Kentucky State Fair Board accounts for \$460 million annually in economic impact for the local community.

###

#### **About the Kentucky International Convention Center**

Located in the heart of downtown, the Kentucky International Convention Center draws nearly one million people through its halls. Celebrating more than 35 years of successful events, the 300,000 square foot facility accommodates a wide variety of events. In addition, the convention center is just steps away from the entertainment and arena districts and connected to 2,300 hotel rooms via skywalk. For more information, visit [www.kyconvention.org](http://www.kyconvention.org).

For up-to-the-minute information like the Kentucky International Convention Center on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KentuckyInternationalConventionCenter> and follow us on Twitter <https://twitter.com/KYICC>.

#### **About Parking**

The Kentucky International Convention Center offers two public parking garages for visitors. The KICC (Cowger) Garage is located at Fourth and Market Streets. The KICC (Commonwealth) Garage is located on Jefferson Street between Third and Fourth Streets (next to the Hyatt Regency Hotel).