

Responsible Gaming Week Announced for Aug. 1-5

Indiana casinos are joining the gaming industry nationwide in observing the 8th annual Responsible Gaming Education Week, August 1—5, 2005 to increase awareness of problem gambling.

This year's theme is "We're Banding Together to Keep it Fun". Casino employees and customers will be wearing orange silicone wristbands with the message, "Keep it Fun", which ties in well with this year's theme. All proceeds from the sale of the wristbands will be donated to the National Center for Responsible Gaming (NCRG), which has been very successful in bringing attention to gambling addiction.

The NCRG, founded in 1996, is a casino-funded non-profit organization that promotes awareness of problem gambling and raises money for research. It has raised over \$13 million from casinos and other individuals and has issued more than \$8 million in grants to fund research for gambling problems. The NCRG is comprised of officials from major gaming companies, health care providers, researchers and treatment experts.

The wristbands are just one way the American Gaming Association (AGA) and state gaming associations support the NCRG. The gaming industry recognizes that there is still much to learn about problem gaming. The industry's proactive approach and eagerness to support responsible gaming are evidenced by the AGA Code of Conduct for Responsible Gaming, which, in part, calls for continued funding for research.

Each Indiana casino is very diligent in maintaining a comprehensive program to educate their employees about problem gambling, as well as providing information to individuals who feel they are in need of help to keep gaming in perspective as an entertainment venue. While promoting responsible gaming is a year-round initiative for Indiana casinos, the riverboat properties are taking the opportunity to heighten awareness during this week.

More information about Responsible Gaming Education Week, Indiana's riverboat gaming industry, the Casino Association of Indiana and the National Center for Responsible Gaming is available at www.casinoassociation.org, www.americangaming.org and www.ncrg.org.