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## **Matt Bell, Business, Education and Government Leader, to Replace Mike Smith as President of the Casino Association of Indiana**

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (Nov. 13, 2015) – Matt Bell, Principal and co-founder of the Catalyst Public Affairs Group, will take the reins of the Casino Association of Indiana (CAI) from current President Mike Smith, who has led the group for 13 years.

Bell, a former state legislator who has also served as President of Ivy Tech Corporate College and was named Small Business Champion of the Year in 2007 by the Indiana State Chamber of Commerce, will lead the eight member gaming and entertainment property association effective December 1. Bell will continue as Principal of the Catalyst Public Affairs Group, which will also serve as a consulting firm to the association.

"I am humbled and honored that the Board of the Casino Association of Indiana has entrusted me to lead this important association," said Bell. "Indiana's casino gaming entertainment industry is a vital contributor to our state's economy. It supports employment and spurs economic development in communities throughout our great state. With the support of the team at Catalyst Public Affairs Group, it is my belief that the Casino Association of Indiana will continue to distinguish itself as the nation's premier state gaming association."

Matt Bell was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives in 2005 where he served on the Labor and Employment Committee, the Insurance Committee, the Natural Resources Committee and rose to the rank of Vice-Chairman of the Public Policy Committee. After his public service in the Indiana General Assembly, Matt served as the founding Chief Executive Officer of the Regional Chamber of Northeast Indiana before his role at Ivy Tech.

"I can't think of a more qualified candidate to lead this association and continue in the positive path that we are on as an economic driver for the State of Indiana," said Smith. "Matt will not only be a great and effective leader, but has the needed skills to face the challenges of competition from surrounding states with innovation and ingenuity."

Bell also concluded a four year term as a Commissioner of the Indiana Gaming Commission in October of 2014, serving as Chairman of the Commission from 2013-2014. Bell was awarded a Sagamore of the Wabash from Governor Mike Pence upon his retirement from the Commission.

"Mike's outstanding leadership of the Casino Association of Indiana is a testament to his character, talent, and vision," continued Bell. "He has advanced the industry by embodying the highest standard of ethics and integrity and demanding the same from the members of the Casino Association of Indiana. I am thankful for his friendship and his mentorship, and I am committed to carrying forward the legacy of excellence that he has established."

Under Smith's leadership, the CAI has created thousands of Hoosier jobs and has provided over \$12 billion to local and state tax revenues.

"I'd like to thank the CAI Board and staff at all of the properties and my wonderful staff at the association. As a team, we have accomplished much and have seen the gaming industry in Indiana grow into a wonderful partner to our state and local communities, improving the quality of life for Hoosiers. I've thoroughly enjoyed the last 13 years and am thrilled to be leaving the association in such capable hands," concluded Smith.

**Note:**

Catalyst Public Affairs Group was founded in 2013 by Principals Matt Bell and Tony Mitson. Catalyst provides clients with a full range of world class advocacy and government affairs solutions. For more information, go to [www.catalystpag.com](http://www.catalystpag.com).

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