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For Immediate Release

St. Charles Park District Employee Awarded for Professionalism at IAPD/IPRA Conference

La Grange, IL– On January 24, 2025, the Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) honored Taylor Krawczyk from the St. Charles Park District with the IPRA Young Professional of the Year Award, for her commitment and excellent service to parks, recreation, and conservation in Illinois. Ms. Wittek was recognized during the IAPD/IPRA Awards Program at the IAPD/IPRA Soaring to New Heights Conference, held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

The IPRA Young Professional of the Year Award recognizes an up-and-coming leader in the field of parks and recreation, is given to an individual with less than eight years of experience, and someone who shows a great deal of promise in becoming a future leader in the field.

From her beginnings as an intern supervising concessions to her current role as Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, Taylor has been an integral part of the St. Charles Park District. She has advanced youth programming, fostered community engagement, and championed inclusion. Notably, her leadership in implementing sensory-friendly options across the district's programs showcases her passion for creating equitable and welcoming spaces for all.

In her role as Assistant Superintendent of Recreation, Taylor's vision and initiative were exemplified by launching a district-wide Youth Mental Health First Aid Training. Her ability to promote innovation and creativity has significantly enhanced the district's services, leaving a lasting impact on her colleagues and the community she serves.

'Congratulations to Taylor for being recognized by her peers with this award for her inclusive, passionate commitment to the profession,' Suzi Wirtz, IOM, IPRA Executive Director. 'I personally am impressed by emerging young talent who take the lead on innovation and make lasting contributions. I'm excited to continue seeing Taylor help shape the future of the profession and the association.'

A complete list of IPRA Award winners is available on the IPRA website, ilipra.org.

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Established in 1944, the Illinois Park & Recreation Association (IPRA) serves over 3,000 park, recreation, and conservation professionals throughout the state, and is a national leader in providing premier education, networking, and resources. For more information about IPRA, its board and mission, please visit the IPRA website: www.Ilipra.org.

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