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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DRA Announces Hiring of Anthony Williams as New President & CEO of DRA and Q Casino + Resort

Anthony Williams of Las Vegas was selected by the DRA Board of Directors to be the next leader for the organization.

Dubuque, IA – April 30, 2025 – After an extensive search, the DRA Executive Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Anthony Williams has been hired to become the new President and CEO of DRA and Q Casino + Resort. Williams' first day as leader of the organization will be July 1, 2025. DRA is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2025 and Williams is poised to create consistent growth.

Williams who is currently the Senior Vice President of Operations Strategy/QE Development for MGM Resorts International has been instrumental in shaping operational strategies across a portfolio of domestic resorts, arenas, and racetracks. His responsibilities include managing operational and capital budgets exceeding \$800 million, overseeing the performance of 21 properties, and leading a diverse team of 2,100 employees nationwide. His oversight spans a broad portfolio of assets, including more than 43,000 guest rooms, ensuring exceptional standards of service and operational excellence.

“With his many years of gaming industry experience and a strong track record of driving operational excellence and implementing strategic planning and capital improvement initiatives, the board felt Anthony’s background and expertise was well-suited for becoming our next leader,” said Lori Thielen, DRA’s Board Chair. “We are looking forward to having him jump-in and help keep our momentum going, especially when it comes to the ongoing renovation and expansion of Q Casino + Resort and our future plans for the continued development of Schmitt Island.”

Besides his many professional accomplishments in the gaming and hospitality industries, Williams has been a part of many boards and has used his talents and expertise to offer guidance to numerous civic organizations and community initiatives. His board experiences include: The Boys and Girls Club of Southern Nevada, The First Tee of Southern Nevada, University of Nevada Reno’s Cooperative Extension, The American Heart Association, The Nevada Professional Facility Managers’ Association, and the Southern Nevada Operating Engineers Management Trust.

Williams holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management, providing a strong foundation in organizational and managerial principles. In addition, he earned a Strategic Leadership Certificate from Cornell University, which has equipped him with advanced skills in leadership strategy and executive decision-making. Furthermore, Williams is a certified life coach, demonstrating his commitment to personal development and helping others achieve their goals. His diverse educational background and professional certifications reflect his comprehensive approach to leadership, coaching, and management.

“The history of DRA is both unique and impressive, so I am honored the board has selected me to be the next President and CEO of DRA and Q Casino + Resort and look forward to becoming a part of the Dubuque community,” said Williams. “I am eager to begin digging-in and finding ways to not only enhance resort amenities but also make sure DRA’s positive community impact keeps moving forward. This includes ensuring the board’s vision and plans for the continued development of Schmitt Island stays on-track.”

A big believer in championing innovation and strategic operational improvements, Williams is eager to get started, meet members of the community, and identify ways he can bring value to all levels of the organization and across Schmitt Island right away.

“Most of my career has been focused on enhancing the customer experience, boosting employee engagement, and delivering strong financial results. I want to use these experiences to help DRA and the casino resort at all levels, while also maintaining a visible presence in the community,” continued Williams.

Thielen believes Williams’ broad background and experience is a good fit for the role, but his overall enthusiasm and approach to leadership is what really impressed the Executive Board.

“After talking with Anthony, you quickly understand he is a leader with vision who can talk at length about using his passion for people, business savviness, and focus on excellence to help transform organizations – and people – for extraordinary growth,” offered Thielen. “These traits and skills will allow him to thrive at DRA and in our community.”

A reception welcoming Williams to the community is being planned and more information regarding this event will be shared at a later date.

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About the DRA

The DRA, through its gaming and entertainment facilities provides for social, economic and community betterment and lessens the burden of Dubuque city and area government, while contributing to the growth and viability of Dubuque area tourism. The organization has been a vital part of the community since its inception in 1985 and is operated by a volunteer board comprised of 21 directors who work together to guide operations of Q Casino + Resort. The DRA holds the license for casino-gaming operations of Q Casino + Resort and is also the co-licensee for the Diamond Jo Casino, both of which are located in Dubuque. For more information on DRA and its community-minded mission, visit <https://dradubuque.com/>.

About Q Casino + Resort

Q Casino + Resort is a premier gaming and entertainment complex located on historic Chaplain Schmitt Island in Dubuque, Iowa. Established in 1985, this riverside facility is owned and operated by the Dubuque Racing Association (DRA), a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization. The casino and resort feature nearly 25,000 square feet of gaming space, an onsite hotel, and a variety of entertainment options. Recent renovations have introduced a new event space, expanded dining options, and Island Social, a family-friendly entertainment center open to all ages. Further enhancements are underway, including a boutique hotel with a rooftop restaurant. For more information on Q Casino + Resort and its year-round promotions, concerts and events, visit www.qcasinoandresort.com.