

January 23, 2017

Contact: Beth Bechdol

Email: bbechdol@inagribiz.org

Phone: 317-236-2483



Agribusiness Council of Indiana Announces New Leadership Changes

The Agribusiness Council of Indiana (ACI) is announcing new staff leadership changes. After seven years as President of ACI, Beth Bechdol is stepping down to concentrate on other food and agriculture related initiatives through her position at Ice Miller LLP. The ACI Board of Directors has announced a new leadership and management structure that includes support from KAW Management, Ice Miller LLP and Bose Public Affairs. Amy Cornell with Bose Public Affairs will assume the role of President beginning on February 1, 2017.

- **KAW Management** – Kelli Waggoner and Jayne McElwain will continue to oversee administrative management and coordination of ACI's financial matters and association events and seminars.
- **Ice Miller LLP** – Mark Shublak, Lesa Dietrick and Katie Glick will make up the ACI Legislative and Government Affairs team, supporting the association with state and federal policy and regulatory representation and advocacy.
- **Bose Public Affairs** – Amy Cornell will assume the role of President providing executive and strategic leadership to the association.

"It has been a privilege to serve alongside and represent our state's agribusiness leaders who are deeply committed to this industry," said Bechdol, outgoing ACI President. "ACI members well appreciate the importance of engaging with policy leaders, staying informed on critical industry issues and building the next generation of talent. They are the heart of this organization."

Alan Lowe of Lowe's Pellets and Chair of the Indiana Grain & Feed Association reflected on Bechdol's departure and work. "Beth helped ACI grow into an effective and sophisticated association with not only a renewed purpose but also a path to longer term success," Lowe stated. "She was key to setting forward a vision for ACI, to re-engaging members, to ensuring our financial viability and to building a pipeline of new leaders. Her leadership and thoughtful approach to all of member needs will be missed."

Incoming ACI President, Amy Cornell will begin her post with strong knowledge of the agriculture industry. Cornell formerly served as Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs for the Indiana State Department of Agriculture (ISDA), and a Policy Advisor and Counsel for

Indiana Farm Bureau. She currently serves as Second Vice President at Bose Public Affairs and will devote a significant amount of her time to this role of ACI President.

Sal Salma of Winfield Solutions and the Chair of ACI and the Indiana Plant Food and Agricultural Chemicals Association Chair welcomed Cornell on behalf of the full board to her new post. "Amy brings tremendous knowledge of key agricultural issues from several of her past roles," said Sama. "She is very familiar with working for membership-based organizations like ours, and her enthusiasm to take on this role for ACI is contagious. We look forward to working with her as we continue to strengthen our efforts in so many areas on behalf of our members."

###

About the Agribusiness Council of Indiana

The Agribusiness Council of Indiana (ACI) has deep roots in Indiana's agribusiness community. Formed in 2001, ACI brings together two longstanding agribusiness associations: the Indiana Grain and Feed Association (formed in 1902) and the Indiana Plant Food and Agricultural Chemicals Association (formed in 1966). Today, ACI has approximately 400 member companies spanning the Midwestern grain, feed, fertilizer and ag chemical industries.