

For Immediate Release

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Midwest Conference Keynote Focused on “Repositioning Parks & Recreation”

Keynote learning experience supported through Landscape Structures’ scholarship Delano, Minn. (April 11, 2013) — Landscape Structures Inc., a Delano, Minn.-based commercial playground equipment manufacturer, along with its South Dakota playground consultant, Dakota Fence, is scheduled to exhibit at the 2013 Parks & Recreation Midwest Conference April 14-16, in Deadwood. The conference will feature Dr. John Crompton, distinguished professor of Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences at Texas A&M University and well-known researcher and author, as the keynote and presenting speaker. This learning experience was made possible through the 2012-2013 State Association Speaker Scholarship program from Landscape Structures.

Dr. Crompton’s keynote will focus on “Repositioning Parks and Recreation.” Throughout the past 40 years, the park and recreation field has passed through six different eras: product orientation, emphasis on sales, focus on user benefits, a shift to community benefits, identifying community priorities with which to align, and activation of those priorities. Although this evolution has been sequential, there are agencies at all of these stages. Dr. Crompton will describe the key elements of each stage and ask the audience to consider where they are in their thinking and actions, and where their agency is in its thinking and actions. The case will be made that an agency’s long term viability will be dependent on how far along this evolutionary continuum it has progressed. The field’s future lies in aligning with community priorities and engaging in activities that contribute to alleviating them. These were the key elements in the field’s emergence as a public service in the late 1800s and early 1900s, and they remain central to its future viability.

The 90-minute session will be presented at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 15. Prior to and after the keynote address, delegates will have the opportunity to visit Dakota Fence and Landscape Structures in the exhibit hall to learn about the latest trends in playground design including custom and theme designs, playground and water play safety surfacing and creating truly inclusive play environments.

About Landscape Structures Inc.

Since 1971, Landscape Structures Inc. has been the leading commercial playground equipment manufacturer in the world. The employee-owned company is committed to making the world a better place with active children thriving in leading communities year after year, generation after generation. Landscape Structures encourages outdoor play that develops healthy kids and a sustainable world by creating innovative products that are environmentally responsible. The company's mission from day one has been to enhance children's lives by fostering and creating inspiring play experiences while honoring the environment.

About Dakota Fence

Dakota Fence, serving the Dakotas, Montana and Wyoming since 1972, represents premier manufacturers of park, playground and athletic equipment. The company has four professionally staffed offices to rapidly respond to customers' needs. Their unique ability to create a design to fit in the available space, within budget and install these items sets them apart. Customers will work with a single source from design conception to project completion. Dakota Fence is certified, licensed, bonded and insured, and with more than 1,000 installations it's the most experienced contractor in the region. Under no obligation, the company provides detailed written estimates including plans, specs and renderings. Dakota Fence is also proud sponsors of a number of area associations dedicated to the development of youth.