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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Department on Aging Kicks off the *Governor's Conference on Aging & Disability***

*Conference is the largest statewide meeting of advocates who serve older adults*

CHICAGO - December 10, 2014. The Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) today begins the *Governor's Conference on Aging & Disability*. The conference runs today through Friday, December 10, 11, and 12, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown. This is the 33<sup>rd</sup> year IDoA has presented the conference which is considered the largest statewide meeting and comprehensive training for people who work in the network of serving older adults.

"The Illinois Department on Aging administers programs to serve the state's 2.23 million older adult population. And with predictions that population will increase almost ten percent by 2030, it's important we stay ahead of the curve. I am pleased to welcome the presenters, exhibitors, professionals and consumers to this year's conference that offers the latest information on how to best serve older adults and people with disabilities," said IDoA Director John K. Holton, Ph.D.

Professionals who attend the three day conference will network and learn the latest research, trends and developments in supportive technology.

In addition to the intensive workshops offered, this year's conference features a keynote by Erin McInrue of *Age Wave*, speaking on "How the Modern Family is Transforming Aging, Retirement and Community." During today's opening session, Ms. McInrue will discuss significant demographic and economic changes occurring throughout the country and how they affect today's modern family. On the last day of the conference, Dr. Jane Barratt, Secretary General of the International Federation on Ageing (IFA) will report how pets contribute to healthy aging. Dr. Barratt will also provide the keynote address during the closing plenary session when she discusses the acceleration of the aging population on a global scale and its significance.

On Friday December 12, IDoA will host an awards program to recognize individuals for their commitment and service to older adults and people with disabilities. Each year, the awards program serves to officially end the *Governor's Conference on Aging & Disability*. (The names of the 2014 awardees will be publicized in a press release on Friday, December 12).

For more information about programs and services to assist older adults in Illinois, their families and caregivers, log on to the department website at: <http://www.illinois.gov/aging/> or call the Department on Aging at 1-800-252-8966 or (TTY, hearing impaired use) call 1-888-206-1327.

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