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Contact: Jim Novak
Communications Manager
Turfgrass Producers International
2 East Main Street
East Dundee, IL 60118
847-649-5555
jnovak@TurfGrassSod.org



Karen Cooper Appointed Associate Executive Director of Turfgrass Producers International

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Turfgrass Producers International (TPI) has announced the appointment of Karen Cooper to the newly-created position of associate executive director effective May 1.

Cooper has extensive professional writing expertise, along with fifteen years of administrative and project management experience. Working collaboratively is a common thread throughout her professional background and a key asset she brings to TPI.



Cooper grew up in a small town near Wichita, Kansas, nestled in the heart of a farming community. From April 2007 to December 2013, she served as senior manager of conference education for the Golf Course Superintendents Association of America (GCSAA). There she managed all aspects of the annual GCSAA educational conference for over 7,000 participants. She connected with the members to better assess their needs and expectations; then communicated with the instructors to develop curriculum to align with their objectives. This included expansion of social media content and new audience-driven sessions. Since her husband's transfer to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, led to leaving this position, she has missed the turfgrass industry and especially its people. She is eager to meet TPI members, see their farms and learn the production side of the turf industry.

Cooper earned her BS in Information Technology from the University of Houston and her MS in Higher Education Administration from the University of Kansas. She comes to

TPI directly from the position of curriculum specialist where she developed adult learning training courses specifically designed to meet the needs of the target audience for the National Center for Biomedical Research & Training/Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education at Louisiana State University.

Cooper and her husband Mike have a daughter, Courtney, who is a horticulture major, just finishing her junior year at the University of Arkansas.

Asked the main thing TPI members should know about her, Cooper said, “I want to hear what they are excited about; what challenges they are facing and what we can do for them. I invite them to call me, shoot me a message—I really want that communication.”

Cooper can be reached at kcooper@TurfGrassSod.org.

Turfgrass Producers International is an independent, not-for-profit association with nearly 800 members in over 40 countries comprised of turfgrass sod and seed producers, equipment manufacturers and suppliers, and various individuals involved in education and/or turf-related research.

For more information about Turfgrass Producers International visit: <http://www.turfgrassod.org/>

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