

September 27, 2019

Volume 25, Issue 26

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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



INDIANA MOBILE WAGERING POISED TO LAUNCH

With Indiana having gone live with on-premise sports wagering September 1, 2019, the Indiana Gaming Commission ("IGC") prioritized approving mobile Indiana sports betting, something that was approved at its Wednesday, September 25, 2019, meeting. Five Indiana casinos opened their sportsbooks the first week of September in time for the kickoff of the NFL season. There are a total of 13 casinos currently authorized to offer sports wagering in Indiana. A 14th casino, Rising Star Casino, has submitted an application and is waiting for approval from the IGC.

Rush Street Interactive, the operator of French Lick Casino's mobile platform, received permission to launch its sports wagering application on October 3, 2019. The order authorizing the launch noted: "Rush Street has substantially demonstrated to the satisfaction of the commission that its mobile sports wagering operation meets the requirements [of Indiana's statutes and regulations]." Several other operators have submitted mobile wagering applications to the IGC and are working their way through the required approvals and testing. While the operators hope to launch in early October, IGC executive director Sara Gonso Tait stated: "We set very high standards and we are pleased that several companies have been able to quickly work toward their proposed launch dates. We will continue to update the IGC website when operators substantially meet the regulatory requirements necessary for launch authorization."

GUN LAKE CASINO AND GRAND RAPIDS COMMUNITY COLLEGE OFFER BLACKJACK ACADEMY

According to its website, Grand Rapids Community College (GRCC) is partnering with Gun Lake Casino this fall to offer a Blackjack Dealer Academy – the first such partnership in the state.

Gun Lake Casino representatives reached out to GRCC Workforce Training for help bringing a program to the Grand Rapids area that teaches participants how to be a blackjack dealer. GRCC is the first public community college in Michigan to partner with a tribal casino on this type of academy.

“It is a natural fit for us to partner with Grand Rapids Community College,” said Jose Flores, vice president and general manager at Gun Lake Casino. “We have many GRCC alumni who are key contributors at Gun Lake Casino within our hospitality and security departments.”

Students who successfully complete the training will receive Blackjack Dealer Academy certification and will be interviewed by the casino for jobs.

“Being relevant and responsive to our community means partnering with employers to create specialized training programs leading to jobs and keeping our region’s economy strong,” GRCC President Bill Pink said. “We strive to be the place people look to for help, whether that’s the resident looking to gain new skills or the employer looking to fill openings. It’s a role we embrace.”

Prospective students must be 21 and have a high school diploma or an equivalent. The casino is funding most of the training, so the class costs only \$25 for students. The job openings are mainly for second- and third-shift hours. Wages vary, but the average is \$18 to \$22 per hour, including tips. In many cases, food and transportation are offered.

GRCC will host the first set of classes, which will be taught by a casino instructor, in October at the Leslie E. Tassell M-TEC, 622 Godfrey Ave. SW.

“We work closely with employers across the region to train people for in-demand jobs, filling local needs,” said Julie Parks, executive director of GRCC Workforce Training. “This is our first opportunity to train people for careers in the gaming industry, and we are looking forward to growing this new partnership.”

GRCC, in collaboration with community organizations and West Michigan Works!, have already hosted a session for community partners informing them about this opportunity. The first public information session is scheduled for 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18, at Tassell M-TEC. To register, or to learn more, visit the [webpage](#) or contact Tassell M-TEC at (616) 234-3800.

EMERGING LEADERS OF GAMING AND GLOBAL GAMING BUSINESS MAGAZINE ANNOUNCE THE 2019-20 CLASS OF “ELG 40 UNDER 40”

Emerging Leaders of Gaming (ELG) and Global Gaming Business magazine (GGB) have announced the 2019-2020 class of the Emerging Leaders of Gaming 40 Under 40. This honor is produced in conjunction with The Innovation Group, founders of the ELG program. The ELG 40 Under 40 represent young professionals already making significant impacts in the casino gaming industry.

These leaders have been selected from nominations driven by an open call to the industry. The newest class of honorees represent all aspects of gaming, including commercial and tribal casinos, manufacturers, law, regulation and entertainment.

“The ELG 40 Under 40 has become the most important vehicle for recognition of rising leaders in the gaming industry,” said Roger Gros, publisher of GGB magazine. “With a record number of nominations, the list was very difficult to narrow. It’s a testament to the bright future of the industry just how competitive the process has become.”

Michael Soll, president of The Innovation Group, is encouraged by ELG’s continued growth. “For the seventh consecutive year, we’ve seen enthusiasm and interest for this program grow,” said Soll. “New leadership can serve to invigorate

an industry and we're excited to play a key role in identifying individuals with the talent and creativity to lead gaming into the future."

The 2019-2020 class includes:

- Filippas Antonopoulos, CEO & Founder, Vermantia
- Stewart Baker, Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Inspired Entertainment, Inc.
- Phil Bernard, Vice President, Gaming Equipment, Eilers & Krejcik Gaming, LLC
- Steven Brody, Digital Compliance Manager, William Hill US
- Brian Bulko, Compliance Manager, Speaking Rock Entertainment Center
- Lucas Cai, Director, Casino Operations, Marina Bay Sands
- Shawna Castellano, Region Director, National Indian Gaming Commission
- Amy Castro, Gaming Operations Analyst, Ocean Downs Casino
- Teri Chan Palomaki, Vice President, Financial Planning & Analysis, Scientific Games
- Dan Cherry, Vice President of Gaming Operations, Penn National Gaming
- Dan Farnon, Director, Strategic Accounts, IGT
- Jessica Feil, Senior Director, Government Relations, American Gaming Association
- Josh Ford, Chief Information Officer, Jamul Casino
- Kevin Fulmer, Vice President, Digital Sports, Caesars Entertainment
- Daniel Hanson, Executive Director, Snoqualmie Gaming Commission
- Harry Jackson III, Associate, Fox Rothschild LLP
- Lana Kotur, Vice President of Customer Success, VizExplorer
- Afshien Lashkari, Engineering Manager, New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement
- Brandon Loeschner, Partner, National Practice Leader Gaming Services Group, RubinBrown LLP
- Meredith McEvoy, Engineering Operations Director, AGS
- Max Meltzer, Chief Commercial Officer, Kambi Group Plc
- Bhavishi Patel, Vice President of Employee-Owner & Guest Experiences, Eureka Casino Resort
- Lukas Pesek, Vice President of Food & Beverage, Excalibur Hotel and Casino
- Samantha Powell, General Manager, GLI APAC (Australia and Macau) Region
- Guillermo Ramirez Carmona, Mechanical Engineer, Incredible Technologies
- Danielle Rankin, Director of Business Development, Konami Gaming Inc.
- Loren Rosenberg, VP Product & Market Strategy, Everi Holdings, Inc.
- Karl Rutledge, Partner, Chair – Commercial Gaming Group, Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP
- Ryan Sawyer, Vice President/Project Director, Analytical Environmental Services
- Allen Schultz, Director of Slot Performance, San Manuel Casino
- Lindsay Slader, VP Regulatory Affairs, GeoComply
- Nicole Stewart, Vice President/Transportation Engineer, Urban Systems, Inc.
- Kelly Sullivan, Director of Global HR & Development, Mohegan Gaming & Entertainment
- Diana Szorc, Digital Marketing Manager, Rush Street Gaming
- Rishi Tirupari, Vice President – Sustainability, Wynn Resorts (Macau)
- Simone Tyree, Assistant Casino Manager, Caesars Entertainment (Paris LV)
- Luciana Van Sickle, Global Strategic Sourcing Manager, Aristocrat Technologies
- Adam Wexler, Chief Executive Officer, Performance Predictions
- Christopher Wilcock, Executive Director of Casino Optimization, The Venetian Resort Las Vegas LLC
- Brian Wyman, Senior Vice President, Operations & Data Analytics, The Innovation Group

The Emerging Leaders of Gaming 40 Under 40 will be honored at a cocktail event during G2E on Wednesday, October 16 from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at SUSHISAMBA Las Vegas. [To RSVP for this event, please click here.](#)

CAESARS WINDSOR CHANGES FOR 2020?

With the merger of Caesars Entertainment and Eldorado Resorts earlier this year, Eldorado Resorts is poised to take over management of Caesars Windsor. The \$17.3 billion merger this

past summer created the world's largest casino operator, with the new board being comprised of 6 El Dorado board members and 5 Caesars board members. Current Caesars Windsor employees are part of Unifor Local 444 and are currently in the second year of a three-year contract according to a Casino Report story that can be found [here](#). From the customer perspective, The Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation noted that casino visitors would not feel a change once Eldorado steps in, and that everyday operation will continue without major changes.

THE AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION RELEASES REGULATIONS AND STATUTES FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMING

The American Gaming Association has released a Responsible Gaming Regulations & Statutes publication as a collection of the statutes and regulations addressing responsible gaming in the 28 states, plus the District of Columbia, that have commercial casinos or sports betting regulations as of August 31, 2019. It is intended as a reference for industry stakeholders, researchers, lawmakers and regulators.

Responsible gaming requirements generally fall into several broad categories, as detailed in the report. These categories include:

- Responsible gaming plan
- Self-exclusion program
- Property signage and responsible gaming disclosures
- Advertising restrictions
- Wager and time limits
- Credit restrictions
- Restrictions on financial instruments
- Treatment and research funding
- Employee training
- Restrictions on alcoholic beverages
- Other: Among other things, states may require their gaming regulators to create a statewide responsible gaming program, submit a study on the effectiveness of responsible gaming provisions or require

operators to verify gambling winners do not owe child support.

The central goal of these programs is to ensure that patrons responsibly enjoy casino games as a form of entertainment.

[To view the Responsible Gaming Regulations & Statutes publication in its entirety, please click here.](#)