

Virginia Horse Center Foundation
April 22, 2014

+++++++PRESS RELEASE+++++++

TRUITT ANOUNCES RETIREMENT DATE, PETTY NAMED INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, FORMER KENTUCKY HORSE PARK DIRECTOR SIGNS ON AS CONSULTANT

Virginia Horse Center Foundation (VHCF) Executive Director Katherine Truitt has announced she will retire effective Friday, May 2, 2014. Truitt joined VHCF in 2008 and has been at the helm of the equine facility during a period of a sluggish and trying economy. She is credited with keeping the Center running smoothly and effectively and helping to create the short and long term strategies currently in place to return the Center to financial stability.

"I have enjoyed working at the Horse Center and value the people I've worked with and our role in the community. It's time for me to step aside and take on new challenges while enjoying my friends and family. I believe a good team has been assembled to move the Center forward and I think the Center's future remains extremely positive."

Glenn D. Petty (not to be confused with Glenn T. Petty who was in charge of the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, NC for many years) has been named the interim Executive Director to replace Truitt. Petty comes from a horse show background and has served as a key executive in the Thoroughbred industry for the past 30 years. From 2003 to 2013, Petty was the Executive Director of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association and prior to that with Colonial Downs and the Maryland Jockey Club. He is currently the president of the consulting firm Equisport Solutions.

Petty was initially hired as a consultant in early March of this year and was charged with drafting the business plan which was presented to the Rockbridge Board of Supervisors and the Lexington City Council late last month. Working with the VHCF Executive Committee, including new VHCF president Ernie Oare of EMO Stables and new Treasurer Tom Clarke of Kissito Healthcare and Natural Bridge historic site and hotel, Petty and the VHCF team is making significant progress in solving the Center's primary problems.

"I'm excited to be part of the solution, and I look forward to working with a great team as we move the Center forward. I've worked closely with Ernie Oare on various industry projects for many years and I think he is the right person to head up this initiative. With the help of the local and Federal government, I can see tangible solutions looming on the near horizon and a bright future for the Center."

On May 7, 2014, former Kentucky Horse Park Executive Director John Nicholson will be travelling to Rockbridge County to tour the area and the Virginia Horse Center. Nicholson, who will retire from the position he has held with Horse Park for the past 17 years, has agreed to work with the Virginia Horse Center as a consultant.

For more information contact Glenn Petty GDPetty56@gmail.com 540-219-9732 or Ernie Oare Eoare@EMOStables.com 540-270-1246

The Virginia Horse Center (VHC) hosted 112 equine events in calendar year 2013. VHC provided 51,455 stable nights with an estimated 205,000 guest days and a combined local economic impacts estimated at over \$53 million statewide and \$37 million in Lexington and Rockbridge County.

The VHC is situated on a 573-acre site with 8 barns to accommodate 750 horses in permanent stabling. Indoor stabling can be increased to 1,200 horses with the use of temporary stalls. VHC hosts 19 show rings including two large arenas and a five mile Olympic cross country course. Four of the VHC barns are winterized with close access to the 4,000 seat indoor coliseum. VHC is recognized for the excellent "footing" of its show rings and the durable construction of the concrete stalls. VHC also offers camping facilities and on-site food and beverage services.

The VHC) plays a key role in the "Shows and Competition" component of the Equine industry's economic impact estimated at \$95 million+ in 2010 and an overall state and local tax impact of \$65 million (\$37 million+ state taxes and \$28 million+ local taxes). An important part of the industry's economic impact includes the tax dollars of \$2.3 million+ for Rockbridge County and the cities of Lexington and Buena Vista. Much of that tax revenue is attributed to the VHC.

(Economic impact estimated by the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center For Public Service)