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Ryan Bonifas appointed as General Manager of Grand River Center

Dubuque (September 29, 2023) – Oak View Group (OVG), the new operators of Grand River Center, named Ryan Bonifas, a 15-year venue and event industry executive, as General Manager for the Grand River Center Convention Center. Ryan relocated to Dubuque, Iowa from Houston, Texas where he most recently served as Director of Venue and Events at the East Montgomery County Improvement District.

As General Manager, Ryan, who began his new position on September 6, 2023, will lead the OVG staff in ensuring Dubuque is the top destination for major conventions in the Tri-State Area, continuing to grow the city's national and regional convention business, and assisting the city and its stakeholders in the development of a full-service convention center. Additionally, Ryan and OVG will develop new and exciting opportunities for the Grand River Center, including enhancing the overall guest experience and increasing food and beverage options.

Ryan, though hailing from Texas, has deep family roots in the Greater Dubuque Area. His father, Gene, grew up in La Motte, amidst a bustling household of six siblings, with many of them still proudly calling the Greater Dubuque area their home. Gene is also an alumnus of Loras College. Ryan's mother, Marcy (short for Marcia), whose maiden name is Halverson, comes from Elkader.

"I am deeply honored and excited to lead the Grand River Center into a new chapter of success. My deep ties to Dubuque, passion for venue management & elevating guest experiences fuel my commitment to position our stunning convention center as the premier destination for gatherings in the Tri-State Area," said Ryan Bonifas. "Together with Oak View Group, we are poised to a future of limitless possibilities and unforgettable moments for our valued guests and stakeholders."

Ryan is a communications graduate from the University of Texas at Arlington along with receiving his Master of Science in Hospitality Management at Florida International University's Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management. He is a member IAVM (International Association of Venue Management), a CVP (Certified Venue Professional) and a graduate of Venue Management School and Venue Management School Graduate Institute through IAVM.

For more information about Ryan Bonifas or the Grand River Center, please visit www.grandrivercenter.com or call 563.690.4500.

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