



FOR RELEASE
February 26, 2013

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NOMINEES RELEASED FOR STATE 'LINCOLN AWARDS'

Amtrak conductor among those up for title of 'Best Supporting Actor' at upcoming Excellence in Tourism Dinner

Chicago – Inspired by the Oscar®-nominated Steven Spielberg blockbuster film, *Lincoln*, the Illinois Office of Tourism is rolling out the red carpet for the state's brightest stars in its first ever 'Lincoln Awards.' The recipients are those "behind the scenes stars" that go above and beyond for the Illinois tourism industry. The awards will be presented during a special program tomorrow night (Feb. 27) at the Excellence in Tourism Awards.

Amtrak conductor Patrick Bracken (right), assigned to the *Lincoln Service* route between Chicago and St. Louis, is nominated for Best Supporting Actor in Illinois. Other contenders include Brad Winn of the Lewis and Clark Visitors Center and the Illinois Travel Guide Fulfillment Center.



Illinois Office of Tourism Deputy Director, Jen Hoelzle, is excited to honor the unique individuals who make Illinois a memorable destination for travelers. "I have always felt the people and personalities that make up Illinois are our greatest asset. You simply will not find so many wonderful people anywhere else," said Hoelzle.

The awards will kick off the 2013 Illinois Governor's Conference on Travel & Tourism. The conference runs February 27 – March 1, in Rosemont at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center. For more information and registration, please visit ilgovconference.com.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Media materials and downloadable images are available on the Illinois Office of Tourism online media center at illinoismediacenter.com. For more information, please visit enjoyillinois.com.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism manages industry efforts that result in sustainable and significant economic and quality-of-life benefits for Illinois residents.