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**PHOTO RELEASE**

**ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC  
ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF DAVID YOUNG,  
20 YEAR VETERAN STAFFER**

ENCINO, CA (April 28, 2009) – Today the Academy of Country Music is announcing the retirement of key staffer David Young, a 20-year veteran staffer who started as the Academy receptionist in 1989 and completed his tenure at the 44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS earlier this month in Las Vegas.

Young was recognized by the Academy with the Mae Boren Axton Award during a special VIP-only reception held in his honor at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas on April 2, prior to the Awards. The Mae Boren Axton Award is given in recognition of years of dedication and service by an outstanding individual to the Academy of Country Music. Past recipients of the award include Jack Lameier, Marge Meoli, Ray Pilzak, Gaynelle Pitts and Gene Weed.

Young has served in various positions throughout his time at the Academy, most recently as Senior Director of Operations, which included managing the office and all logistics for the Academy.

During the past 20 years, Young has overseen various show-related areas including credentialing, hotel reservations, ground transportation, on-location catering and ACM in-house production for the New Artists Show and the All-Star Jam. He has supervised logistics for additional Academy events including the Celebrity Golf Classic, in addition to directing office technology, coordinating volunteers and interns, and working as a liaison with Dick Clark Productions.

“I’ve known David since I started working with the Academy 19 years ago,” says Bob Romeo, Executive Director. “He’s been a constant pillar of support for the organization. Not only has he been instrumental in the Academy’s growth, but he’s also been a great friend to me and all who have worked with him here. David will be sorely missed. We wish him the best as he moves on, and we know that he’ll thrive in his new endeavors.”

Young joined the Academy as a receptionist in 1989 and was quickly promoted to executive assistant for the former Executive Director, Fran Boyd, who retired in 2002. His enthusiasm, work ethic and spirit eventually propelled him to Senior Director, a position in which he made an integral impact on the Academy’s growth and future.

Young has relocated to Indiana to be closer family, and can be reached at [kelticcow@yahoo.com](mailto:kelticcow@yahoo.com).

In anticipation of Young’s retirement, the Academy announced in January the expansion of duties for and promotion of Tiffany Moon, Senior Director, Operations and Finance, and the hire of Erick Long, Director, Logistics.

**About the Academy of Country Music**

Founded in 1964, the **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC** is an artist and industry-driven organization, providing the financial resources to ensure the on-going philanthropic work of ACM Lifting Lives, the charitable arm of the Academy which works to improve lives through music. The Academy is comprised of more than 4,200 professional members and more than 80,000 associate members and is headquartered in Encino, Calif.

**Photo Identifications:**

Bob Romeo, Executive Director of the Academy of Country Music, with David Young  
David Young with Tiffany Moon, Senior Director, Operations and Finance

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