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Churchill Downs Incorporated Names Mike Ziegler Executive Director of Racing

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Jan. 16, 2015 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- Churchill Downs Incorporated (CDI) (Nasdaq:CHDN) announced that Mike Ziegler has been named to its new post of Executive Director of Racing. Ziegler will assume his position on Monday, Jan. 26, 2015, and will report directly to Bill Mudd, CDI's President and Chief Financial Officer.

As CDI's Executive Director of Racing, Ziegler will focus on and support the company's commitment to the U.S. Thoroughbred racing and breeding industry.

"Mike has long been a credible and knowledgeable voice within the racing industry and we look forward to him bringing his wisdom and insight as he takes on this new role at CDI. The industry is continuously changing and bringing new challenges, and Mike's role will be important to the continued success of our company's racing operations and its legacy," Mudd said.

Ziegler will be responsible for championing CDI initiatives to enhance the racing and breeding industry and will serve as a representative and the liaison between CDI and the industry.

Ziegler comes to CDI with nearly 20 years of industry experience. He has served since 2009 as the Executive Director - Safety & Integrity Alliance for the National Thoroughbred Racing Association (NTRA) where he has overseen self-regulatory efforts to enact substantive improvements in safety and integrity in the racing industry.

"We thank Mike for the instrumental role he played in the successful launch and growth of the NTRA Safety and Integrity Alliance and wish him the best of luck in the future," said Alex Waldrop, President and Chief Executive Officer of the NTRA.

Prior to his work at the NTRA, Mike served as Senior Vice President for YouBet.com (2008-09), Vice President for Hollywood Park Racing Association (2005-08), Vice President and General Manager for Bay Meadows Racing Association (2004-08), Vice President for Bay Meadows Operating Company Properties (1995-2008), and Vice President and General Manager for Santa Anita Park (2001-04). He was also the Executive Director for the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance from 2012-13.

Ziegler has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo, Calif., and an MBA from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, Calif.

About Churchill Downs Incorporated

Churchill Downs Incorporated (CDI) (Nasdaq:CHDN), headquartered in Louisville, Ky., owns the world-renowned Churchill Downs Racetrack, home of the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks, as well as racetrack and casino operations in Miami Gardens, Fla.; racetrack, casino and video poker operations in New Orleans, La.; racetrack operations in Arlington Heights, Ill.; a casino resort in Greenville, Miss.; a casino hotel in Vicksburg, Miss.; a casino in Oxford, Maine; and a 50 percent owned joint venture, Miami Valley Gaming and Racing LLC, in Lebanon, Ohio. CDI also owns Big Fish Games, Inc., one of the world's largest producers and distributors of casual games; the country's premier online wagering company, TwinSpires.com; the totalisator company, United Tote; Bluff Media, an Atlanta-based multimedia poker company; and a collection of racing-related telecommunications and data companies. Additional information about CDI can be found online at www.churchilldownsincorporated.com.

Information set forth in this news release contains various "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933 and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the "Act") provides certain "safe harbor" provisions for forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the Act.

The reader is cautioned that such forward-looking statements are based on information available at the time and/or management's good faith belief with respect to future events, and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause actual performance or results to differ materially from those expressed in the statements. Forward-looking statements speak only as of the date the statement was made. We assume no obligation to update forward-looking information to reflect actual results, changes in assumptions or changes in other factors affecting forward-looking information. Forward-looking statements are typically identified by the use of terms such as "anticipate," "believe," "could," "estimate," "expect," "intend," "may," "might," "plan," "predict," "project," "hope," "should," "will," and similar words, although some forward-looking statements are expressed differently. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, we can give no assurance that such expectations will prove to be correct. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially

from expectations include: the effect of global economic conditions, including any disruptions in the credit markets; a decrease in consumers' discretionary income; the effect (including possible increases in the cost of doing business) resulting from future war and terrorist activities or political uncertainties; the overall economic environment; the impact of increasing insurance costs; the impact of interest rate fluctuations; the effect of any change in our accounting policies or practices; the financial performance of our racing operations; the impact of gaming competition (including lotteries, online gaming and riverboat, cruise ship and land-based casinos) and other sports and entertainment options in the markets in which we operate; our ability to maintain racing and gaming licenses to conduct our businesses; the impact of live racing day competition with other Kentucky, Illinois, Louisiana or Ohio racetracks within those respective markets; the impact of higher purses and other incentives in states that compete with our racetracks; costs associated with our efforts in support of alternative gaming initiatives; costs associated with customer relationship management initiatives; a substantial change in law or regulations affecting pari-mutuel and gaming activities; a substantial change in allocation of live racing days; changes in Kentucky, Illinois, Louisiana or Ohio law or regulations that impact revenues or costs of racing operations in those states; the presence of wagering and gaming operations at other states' racetracks and casinos near our operations; our continued ability to effectively compete for the country's horses and trainers necessary to achieve full field horse races; our continued ability to grow our share of the interstate simulcast market and obtain the consents of horsemen's groups to interstate simulcasting; our ability to enter into agreements with other industry constituents for the purchase and sale of racing content for wagering purposes; our ability to execute our acquisition strategy and to complete or successfully operate planned expansion projects; our ability to successfully complete any divestiture transaction; market reaction to our expansion projects; the ability of our totalisator company, United Tote, to maintain its processes accurately or keep its technology current; our accountability for environmental contamination; the ability of our online business to prevent security breaches within its online technologies; the loss of key personnel; the impact of natural and other disasters on our operations and our ability to obtain insurance recoveries in respect of such losses (including losses related to business interruption); our ability to integrate any businesses we acquire into our existing operations, including our ability to maintain revenues at historic levels and achieve anticipated cost savings; the impact of wagering laws, including changes in laws or enforcement of those laws by regulatory agencies; the outcome of pending or threatened litigation; changes in our relationships with horsemen's groups and their memberships; our ability to reach agreement with horsemen's groups on future purse and other agreements (including, without limiting, agreements on sharing of revenues from gaming and advance deposit wagering); the effect of claims of third parties to intellectual property rights; and the volatility of our stock price.

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