



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 4, 2007

## **IAOM Makes Interim EVP Permanent**

Leawood, Kan. – The International Association of Operative Millers (IAOM) has named Melinda Farris to the permanent position of executive vice president. Farris has served as interim executive vice president since June, following the departure of Gary Anderson.

Farris will be responsible for providing direction and leadership toward the achievement of the association's mission, strategy, and its annual goals and objectives.

"I am confident in Melinda's ability to guide our association and meet any challenges head on," stated IAOM President Keith Horton, Grain Millers, Inc. "This is also an historic moment for the association. In its 111-year history, this will mark the first time a woman has served the association in an appointed or elected leadership position."

Farris joined IAOM in November 2004 as the director of communications and has played a key role in several projects undertaken at the IAOM office, including the formation of the Eurasia District and upgrades to IAOM communications.

Prior to joining IAOM, she was communications manager for the American Chamber of Commerce in Russia, a business association uniting over 700 member companies. A native of Winchester, Kan., Farris holds a bachelor's degree in mass communication from Baker University, and a master's degree in Russian and East European Studies from the University of Kansas. She is fluent in Russian. Farris is the daughter of Ronald and Margaret Farris, Winchester. She resides in Olathe, Kan., with her husband Bart Redford.

IAOM has been the leading provider of educational resources and training for the grain milling industry since its foundation in 1896. Through conferences, workshops, correspondence courses, short courses and publications, IAOM has played an integral role in the continued education and training of the professionals in this industry for 111 years. IAOM is an individual-based member organization with a 1,500-strong membership representing over 70 countries worldwide. With 15 districts around the world, IAOM provides an international forum for networking; the exchange of ideas, technical and educational opportunities; and the discovery of new products and services.