

Governor Mike Pence
Fairgrounds Coliseum Reopening
April 24, 2014
Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

Indiana State Fairgrounds Executive Director Cindy Hoye, Andre Lacy, Mayor Greg Ballard, Lt. Governor Ellspermann and my fellow Hoosiers... it is an honor to join you today as we celebrate the grand reopening of the historic Fairgrounds Coliseum three months ahead of schedule!

As some of you may recall, this building holds a very special place in my heart.

It was more than 30 years ago, when I mustered up the courage to ask the woman of my dreams on our first date. She offered to make us taco salad for dinner, and then we went ice skating, right here at the Coliseum. In 1985, we were married, and today, she's Indiana's First Lady.

Since that fateful first date, we have returned time and again with our children—now grown and in college—and we often enjoy reflecting on the many memories we've created here at the Coliseum. It's a place the Pence family truly cherishes.

As we open the doors on the newly renovated structure today, I'm certain the Coliseum will continue to play a feature role in the memories and lives of so many other Hoosier families.

From the double-decked seating bowl to the state-of-the-art sound system and an LED video scoreboard with an 800-foot ribbon board, all inside a revitalized 75-year-old classic art deco shell—the Fairgrounds Coliseum is now the only modern, mid-sized multi-purpose facility in Central Indiana. I can't wait for Hoosiers and their families to see it.

This weekend, the Coliseum's new look will be on display at the Radio One Women's Empowerment Series. It will serve as host to two new anchor tenants—the Indy Fuel of the East Coast Hockey League and IUPUI basketball, an NCAA Division I program. It will provide the perfect venue for draft horse competitions, livestock shows, the Champion Drive, the Celebration of Champions, and summer concerts at the 2014 Indiana State Fair, fittingly declared "The Year of the Coliseum." It will honor the past while looking to the future. And—who knows—it just may be the perfect setting for two young Hoosiers venturing out on a first date.

On behalf of the State of Indiana and Hoosiers everywhere, I thank the members of the Indiana State Fair Commission, Kansas City-based Populous for their architectural and engineering expertise, and Hunt Construction Group of Indianapolis for handling the construction. Your tireless efforts have culminated in the beautiful structure we see today that will raise the bar for the Indiana State Fairgrounds and help to create memories for Hoosier families for generations to come.

Thank you.