

Michigan Meetings + Events Hall of Fame

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Maureen McDonald

We honor four seasoned professionals and two promising up-and-comers who have all earned the respect of their peers in the meeting and event industry.

Best Supplier

Julie Pingston, CMP

Senior Vice President

Greater Lansing Convention & Visitors Bureau

Start circling the wagons. When the Wally Byam Caravan Club, comprised of Airstream RV owners, needed to set up a small city for a whole month in 2004, Julie Pingston rolled out the red carpet.

By tapping nearly every resource in her Outlook contact folder, she helped the urban campers set up an onsite postal service, trash pickup and a communications hub. "Each group is different, each presents an interesting challenge. I haven't had a day I couldn't wait to get to work," Pingston says.

She graduated from Alma College in 1989 with dual majors in political science and Spanish, then landed a job with the U.S. Department of Commerce promoting the nation as a destination for international visitors. Homesick for Michigan, she took a position at Greater Lansing's CVB and worked her way up the ladder over the past 15 years.

Pingston credits her involvement in the **Association for Convention Operations Management** for providing her with many tools for success and continues to be an active mentor. "Julie has worked throughout her career to elevate the role of CVB service in our industry," says co-worker Tracy Padot, vice president of marketing communications.