



October 19, 2017

Reference: Pathway Connectivity – Van Rommel’s Retirement



Dear Pathway Dealer,

After a very successful and hard-earned 45-year career in entertainment lighting, Acuity Brands would like to congratulate Van Rommel on his retirement. Van studied Music and Theater at Trinity University before hitting the road as a lighting designer and touring lighting director for some of the big acts in Rock 'n Roll during the seventies, including extended tours with Waylon Jennings, REO Speedwagon and POCO. Those happy years became even happier when he met his bride-to-be Beth. To get away from sleeping on a tour bus and to spend more time with Beth and raise a family, Van got a suit and started designing for television in 1980 and eventually started a career as a specialized sales person in theatrical and architectural lighting controls.

Raising two children, Mia and Will, the Rommel's settled San Antonio, Texas. Van was invited to join Vari*Lite in Dallas and led that firm's effort to move beyond concert touring and promote the use of automated lighting on Broadway, Cruise Ships, Las Vegas showrooms, Opera and theme parks. At the same time, Vari*Lite introduced the landmark VL5 and VL6 luminaires and Van established and built a network of dedicated production services partners who enabled the company to offer top-notch quality lighting in local and regional markets throughout North America.

Van then became the Southeast Regional Sales Manager, then National Sales Manager for Strand Lighting and remained with them until joining Acuity Brands Lighting in 2010. Van was instrumental in Acuity's acquiring Horizon Control and Pathway Connectivity and combining those engineering, manufacturing and customer service teams to birth what is now known as a leading-edge solutions provider for lighting control and networking technologies for the entertainment and architainment verticals. Other Acuity Brands, such as Fresco, are now reaping the benefits of the products and technologies developed under Van's tutelage.



Every person in this industry knows Van and we all love the incredible energy he has for the promotion of exceptional lighting control—it is contagious. Van was a tireless advocate within our company to teach people what dynamic lighting is and how it should be done right. Most importantly, Van was a mentor and has passed his expertise and passion for lighting to more people than he probably understands. Van left his mark on Acuity and the careers of his friends here.

Van serves as a board member of the Wally Russell Foundation so you'll be sure to see him at next year's USITT as he helps us celebrate when Dave Higgins, Pathway's founder, is presented the 2018 Life Time Achievement Award.

Acuity and the very close-knit family of colleagues at Pathway Connectivity offer Van and family all the best in his retirement. Thank you Van for your dedication and inspiration, and thanks to your family for lending you to us. We see a lot of fishing in your future. Please put the BBQ on as we'll be visiting.

If you use Van's email, it will be forwarded to the correct team member or if you'd like to update your records, please reference the following:

For product lead-time, confirm pricing, or to place an order: orders@pathwayconnect.com

For product applications: Robert Bell at rbell@pathwayconnect.com

For technical issues: support@pathwayconnect.com

For a complete Pathway system quote, please email the name of job, address and brief description to orders@pathwayconnect.com

For all other inquiries, please contact the Pathway Connectivity office in Calgary at (403) 243 8110

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Ciccarelli', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

David Ciccarelli

VP Dynamic Lighting
General Manager of Pathway Connectivity

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