

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY ELECTED LEADERS TRAINING - SPEAKER BIOS

Christopher A. Masingill, Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority

Chairman Chris Masingill was appointed by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2010 to serve as the Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority's eight-county region. In his five years with the Delta Regional Authority, Masingill has made it his hallmark to develop strategic connections between the public and private sectors to achieve economic and community development results on the local, state, and national levels.

While at the Delta Regional Authority, he has placed a strong emphasis on investing in workforce development and training efforts and supporting small businesses and entrepreneurs, recognizing these efforts as the greatest opportunities for the Delta region's economy. In 2014, under Chairman Masingill's leadership, the DRA launched the Reimagining the Delta Workforce initiative, which organized eight state summits and invested \$1.7 million into communities. The initiative seeks to address the challenges of preparing a skilled workforce in Delta communities and to connect local leadership in government, education, and business/industry for realistic, productive solutions. Additionally, the DRA launched the Delta Entrepreneurship Network in January 2015 to identify, nurture, and grow entrepreneurs in Delta communities and work with support organizations and local leadership to cultivate a thriving entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Delta.

For his hard work serving the Delta, the International Economic Development Council honored him with 2015 Federal Leadership in Economic Development Programs Award. Mr. Masingill and his wife, Melissa, have two daughters, Mia and Ava, and live in Little Rock.

Jeffrey Finkle, CECD, President & CEO, International Economic Development Council

As President and CEO of the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) - the world's largest economic development membership organization with more than 4,700 members – Jeff Finkle is a recognized leader and international authority on economic development. Economic development is a complex field requiring financial skills, political acumen and the ability to gauge the social benefit that will result from any given undertaking, and Mr. Finkle has mastered all of these over his career. From his native Ohio to the Far East and most points in between, he has established multi-lateral partnerships with regional and national economic development organizations advising on pertinent issues in the United States, Europe, China, South Africa, Latin America and Oceania.

With the formation of IEDC in 2001 following the merger of the Council for Urban Economic Development (CUED) - where he was president for 15 years - and the American Economic Development Council (AEDC), Mr. Finkle set the course for a more effective and influential organization. Today IEDC – and organization that has roots going back 89 years -- is renowned for its leadership in professionalizing and diversifying the field of economic development, and in the last decade the organization has vastly grown its programs and services. The Economic Development Research Partners Program (EDRP) was created to serve as a think tank within IEDC, furthering in-depth research on cutting-edge issues. In addition, since the devastating hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico in 2005, IEDC has expanded its program in disaster recovery and preparedness. As such, in cooperation with the U.S. Economic Development Administration, IEDC has taken a leadership role in facilitating connections between federal agencies and communities, as well as providing technical assistance and expertise to local organizations nationwide. Under Mr. Finkle's direction, IEDC also managed the Association of University Research

Parks (AURP) and the Association of Defense Communities (ADC) for three and ten years respectively, strengthening the structures and programs of each organization.

Mr. Finkle previously served as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and he is a past member of the Arlington Virginia Economic Development Commission and sat on its Base Realignment and Closure task force in 2005. His commitment to making sustainable economic development a priority in communities of all sizes has been widely acknowledged, and in 2009 he received an award from the Flax Trust, a Northern Ireland charity that seeks to reconcile divided communities, as well as the Golden Bear Award from the California Association of Economic Development in 2010. In 2011 he was lauded by the U.S. Department of Commerce for his 25 years of stewardship over CUED and IEDC.

A leader in community service and philanthropy, in 1989 Mr. Finkle founded the Bollinger Foundation, a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to children who have lost a parent who worked in the field of economic development. The Foundation has awarded over \$600,000 in grants to date, notably for educational support.

In 2010, Mr. Finkle was named the Appalachian New Economy Partnership (ANEP) Fellow and received the Medal of Merit from the National Alumni Board of Ohio University in the same year. In 2011, the Jeffrey A. Finkle internship program was created at Ohio University in honor of Jeff's 25 years of service to the International Economic Development Association. He was previously bestowed the Appalachian New Economy Partnership Award for Economic Development. A frequent lecturer and author of numerous articles, he received a Bachelor of Science degree in communications in 1976 from Ohio University in Athens and pursued graduate studies in business administration at Ohio State University.

Mark Goodman, CEcD, President of Goodman & Associates

Mr. Goodman leads an economic development firm providing training, technical assistance and counseling in the areas of community and business development. A Certified Economic Developer, his core knowledge and experience centers around applied economic development information and analytics in support of community and business development. Over the past 20 years, Mr. Goodman has served in both public and private sector economic development organizations, as both a practitioner and educator, ranging from state and local economic development agencies to university economic development outreach centers and as an economic development consultant.

His project experience is extensive in the areas of information packaging for business development projects, business retention and expansion programming, community assessments for economic development, economic impact analysis, targeted industry analysis, retail analysis, labor studies, and other analytical techniques.

Mr. Goodman is frequently invited as a speaker/trainer at national, state and local training seminars, conference programs, and other functions on multiple topics of economic development, including:

- An applied introduction to economic development for local elected officials;
- The understanding and utility of research methods and community measurement techniques for economic developers;
- Conducting retail analysis;
- Conducting economic impact analysis;
- Conducting community assessments for economic development;
- Quality of living factors and community development; &
- Business retention and expansion efforts and existing industry support techniques.

Mr. Goodman has a Bachelor of Science degree in Economic Geography from the University of North Dakota (1991) and a Master of Science degree in Economic Development from the University of Southern Mississippi (1994). Additionally, he served in the United States Naval Reserve as a Hospital Corpsman, was recipient of the Navy Achievement Medal in 1995, and honorably discharged in 1998.

Lynn A. Knight, CEcD, Vice President of Knowledge Management & Development, International Economic Development Council

“All roads led to economic development” -- Ms. Knight says of her more than 25 years of domestic and international business, government, media and non-profit experience. A Certified Economic Developer, her current responsibilities at IEDC include managing the team that is tasked with conducting cutting edge research, publications, training, programs for conferences, public policy, and staying on top of the latest trends in economic development.

Ms. Knight’s diverse career has encompassed leading a TV news team and a daily newspaper, owning and operating several small businesses, serving as an executive of international corporations, and as the representative of a Governor in our nation’s capital. She has worked in 18 U.S. states and 12 countries, and has won awards for entrepreneurship, corporate executive management and community volunteerism.

Ms. Knight was appointed by both Republican and Democratic Governors of the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to lead economic development commissions, where she spearheaded comprehensive economic development strategic planning, business attraction and retention programs. She also served on a Governor’s Strategic Workforce Action Team, Tourism Task Force, and Strategic Economic Development Council. She was the elected board chair of a Chamber of Commerce and a professional hotel association.

Prior to joining IEDC, Ms. Knight was Director of Economic Development & Tourism Programs for a Virginia-based consulting firm. For 8 years she was VP of Corporate Affairs for Tan Holdings, a \$600 million firm which operated global businesses in manufacturing, logistics, real estate development, tourism, insurance and fishing. She concurrently served on the executive committee of Asia-Pacific Hotels, the China-based Century Tours, as Publisher of a daily newspaper, and as executive director of the firm’s charitable foundation. Early in her career, Ms. Knight was Director of the Office of the Chairman of ComputerLand, a \$1.4B retail chain which operated 880 stores in 26 countries. Upon the sale of the firm, she became a TV anchorwoman for a short time before founding a full-service advertising agency and a business center.

STATE & FEDERAL PARTNERS

Kurt Naumann is the Director of Strategic Planning and Research for the Arkansas Economic Development Commission

Mr. Naumann's duties include strategic planning; formulating legislation, policies, procedures and regulations to implement statewide economic development initiatives; conducting comparative economic research and analysis; and, assisting agency efforts to recruit and retain businesses. During his 22-year AEDC career, Kurt has been the AEDC Assistant Director of Strategic Planning and Research, Research Manager and a Community Development Block Grant project manager. Kurt has also worked for the University of Arkansas Criminal Justice Institute and the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality. He is married and has two daughters, one a freshman at Arkansas State University and another who teaches middle school math in Little Rock.

Justin Ladd, Community Facilities Area Specialist – USDA Rural Development, Jonesboro, AR

Mr. Ladd has worked for USDA for 13 years and has worked in the Community Programs section for 5 years. As a Community Facilities Specialist, he works with Cities, Towns, Counties, and Community Non-Profits to provide Loan and Grant funds to help support the community's general infrastructure needs.