



Weekly News Round-up

IN THIS ISSUE: Arkansas names new Designee to DRA Board | IMCP seeks second round of manufacturing communities | USDA RD Under Secretary visits Mississippi Delta



Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson announces Amy Fecher as Designee to DRA Board

Arkansas' Director of Rural Services Amy Fecher will serve as Governor Asa Hutchinson's designee and alternate to the Delta Regional Authority's board of governors, Governor Hutchinson and DRA Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill announced today.

"We are excited to welcome Amy Fecher onto our board of governors to help us create jobs and increase economic opportunities for the people of the Arkansas Delta," Chairman Masingill said. "Amy has a strong understanding of DRA, the Delta region and rural development issues, which will make Amy a valued partner and addition to the DRA board."

[Read full release here>](#)

DRA to host second webinar on the Delta Entrepreneurship Network

Upcoming Events:

Register or Apply Today

February 3, 2015

Application Webinar: The Entrepreneurship Network

Questions can be directed to deltachallenge@dra.gov.

February 15, 2015

Application Deadline for Entrepreneurship Support Organizations

Send completed applications to deltachallenge@dra.gov by Midnight.

February 6, 2015

DRA Board Executive Committee Call

February 20, 2015

DRA Governors Quorum Meeting and Board Meeting

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February 24, 2015

Delta Challenge Pitch Competition-Missouri

Cape Girardeau, MO | 6pm

Sign up at dra.gov/entrepreneur

February 26, 2015

Delta Challenge Pitch Competition-Louisiana

Ruston, LA | 6pm



This week the DRA held its first webinar outlining the application and fellowship guidelines for entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship support organizations interested in the Delta Entrepreneurship Network. The webinar is available on the DRA YouTube page (youtube.com/DRAvideos) and a document highlighting Frequently Asked Questions is available at dra.gov/entrepreneur.

The DRA will be hosting a second webinar on Tuesday, February 3 at 12pm central time. We encourage our stakeholders to direct entrepreneurs in their communities to visit dra.gov and join the webinar to learn how they can compete for a fellowship and to participate in the Delta Entrepreneurship Network.

[Watch the webinar here>](#)



Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker announces round two designations for Investing Manufacturing Communities Partnership now OPEN

IMCP, an Administration-wide initiative coordinated by the U.S. Commerce Department, is designed to accelerate the resurgence of manufacturing in communities nationwide.

As of January 29, 2015, the Commerce Department's Economic Development Administration (EDA) is seeking to designate up to 12 additional communities as "manufacturing communities" under the IMCP initiative. Specifically, the program aligns federal economic development investments behind long-term economic development

[Sign up at dra.gov/entrepreneur](http://dra.gov/entrepreneur)

February 27, 2015 Delta Challenge Pitch Competition-Mississippi

Jackson, MS | 6pm

[Sign up at dra.gov/entrepreneur](http://dra.gov/entrepreneur)

February 28, 2015 Delta Challenge Pitch Competition-Arkansas

Jonesboro, AR | 1pm

[Sign up at dra.gov/entrepreneur](http://dra.gov/entrepreneur)

March 2, 2015 Delta Challenge Pitch Competition-Alabama

Linden, AL | 6pm

[Sign up at dra.gov/entrepreneur](http://dra.gov/entrepreneur)

**If you have an event that you would like featured in our Upcoming Events section, send event information to news@dra.gov*

Announcements From Our Partners:

Missouri sees best year for job growth in 17 years, Gov Nixon highlights Cape Girardeau

Emerging Leaders Initiative provides small business owners training, opportunity to grow

Applications open for Social Entrepreneurship Boot Camp in Arkansas | Deadline to apply January 31

USDA Rural Utilities Services opens applications for Community Connect Grant Program | Deadline February 17

West Tennessee Small Business Conference

WealthWorks Training Program accepting applications | Deadline March 31

strategies that help communities attract and expand private investment in the manufacturing sector and increase international trade and exports. DRA is proud to be a founding partner in IMCP and encourages Delta communities to apply for this designation.

[Learn more here>](#)



USDA, DRA welcome new Rural Development Under Secretary Lisa Mensah to Delta region

Delta Regional Authority and the USDA Rural Development Mississippi state office co-hosted a partners roundtable in honor of newly-confirmed USDA Rural Development Under Secretary Lisa Mensah's first official visit to the Mississippi Delta. Under Secretary Mensah shares with the DRA the deep passion for creating economic opportunity for rural communities. We look forward to continuing our close partnership with USDA-RD and are excited to strengthen our relationship with Secretary Mensah to improve lives in the Delta region!

[View pictures of the event here>](#)



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