



## Weekly News Round-up

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#ShopSmall on National Small Business Saturday | C<sup>3</sup> Symposium readies for health insurance open enrollment

### HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

The Delta Regional Authority is thankful for all of our partners and stakeholders that support our investments in the Delta region and directly impact the well-being and economic opportunities of people in Delta communities.

The Delta Regional Authority and I hope that all of you have a happy, healthy, and thankful Thanksgiving Day with your family and your communities!

-Chris Masingill  
Federal Co-Chairman



### Memphis partnership leads efforts to develop skilled workforce

The DRA is proud to be a partner and supporter of the recently announced Greater Memphis Alliance for a Competitive Workforce--an initiative of the Memphis Economic Development Growth Engine and part of the region's Economic Development Plan. Mayor Wharton, Mayor Luttrell, and regional business leaders announced the new initiative

### Upcoming Events:

*Register or Apply Today*

#### December 3

#### USDA Farm Bill Learning Sessions

*Held throughout the month of December. For location information, email [j.m.riley@msstate.edu](mailto:j.m.riley@msstate.edu)*

*\*If you have an event that you would like featured in our Upcoming Events section, send event information to [news@dra.gov](mailto:news@dra.gov)*

### Announcements From Our Partners:

**\$9 Million Available to Support Innovative Public Transportation Workforce Development Models**

**Webinar: Learn How Community Foundations Are Building Community Wealth | December 4, 1:00-2:30pm**

**OECD Report "Skills Beyond School" Identifies Good Practices in Addressing Growing Skills Gap**

**Rural Health Network Development Planning Program applications available | Deadline January 9, 2015**

on Monday, November 24 by slating Mid South Community College president Dr. Glen Fenter as the leader of the new program. The Alliance will focus on connecting workers and students to the skills they need to be competitive for current jobs available in Memphis and the greater Mid South region and to attract future jobs to the region.

GMACW is a great example of public and private institutions coming together to address the growing need for skilled workers in the Delta region and speaks directly to DRA's workforce development framework of reimagining what readiness means, reengaging disconnected youth and adult learners, and realigning resources to focus on innovative workforce training opportunities.

[Read More >](#)



## **2014 SEDAP Awards Announced in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Missouri**

Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill and representatives of each Governor announced this year's investments in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Missouri through DRA's States' Economic Development Assistance Program. This round of funding once again includes partnerships that leverage public and private investment for projects that strengthen water and sewer systems, transportation

infrastructure, health care systems and training, workforce development, and entrepreneurship.

### **Alabama**

DRA Investment-\$1,113,675

Total Investment-\$3,585,175

### **Arkansas**

DRA Investment-\$1,393,247

Total Investment-\$3,739,073

### **Louisiana**

DRA Investment-\$1,721,438

Total Investment- \$3,673,453

### **Missouri**

DRA Investment-\$1,088,953

Total Investment- \$11,330,910

*[Learn more about SEDAP investments here >](#)*



## **#ShopSmall, #DineSmall this Small Business Saturday**

Nine out of ten net new private sector jobs in the Delta region are created by small businesses making them an essential economic driver in building opportunity for communities. In recognition of their importance to our nation's economic growth and stability, the US Small Business Administration is encouraging American consumers to demonstrate their appreciation to their local small businesses by buying, shopping, and eating "small" with local merchants on Small Business Saturday-the day after what is known as Black Friday. According to an agency release, Small Business Saturday in 2013 generated an estimated \$5.7 billion

for independent merchants.

The DRA is a proud supporter of Small Business Saturday and we join SBA Administrator Contreras in encouraging Delta residents to [#SHOPSMALL](#) and [#DINESMALL](#) next Saturday and every day.

[Learn More about Small Business Saturday >](#)



### **C3 - Connecting Consumers to Coverage Best Practices Symposium**

Hosted by the Delta Regional Authority, Seedco, and Strong Cities, Strong Communities, the C<sup>3</sup> Symposium convened Navigators, In-Person Assistors (IPAs), Certified Application Counselors (CACs), and other community leaders and healthcare stakeholders from Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, Kentucky to discuss opportunities to increase outreach and enrollment in anticipation of the November 15 open enrollment period for the health insurance marketplace. Speakers included Congressman Steve Cohen-TN9 (pictured), Mayors Wharton and Luttrell, panelists from health care providers across the region, and representatives from enrollment organizations Young Invincibles, Latino Memphis, Enroll America, and Seedco.

More information on navigators, IPAs, or CACs in your community can be found on the [Health Resources & Services Administration website](#).

[Read More and view event presentations >](#)



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