



## Weekly News Round-up

IN THIS ISSUE: National Geographic Geotourism investment | LA Workforce Summit | I-269 Corridor investment



### Big River Strategic Initiative Partners with National Geographic Society, DRA to Promote Delta Tourism

The Big River Strategic Initiative, a consortium of community leaders from 10 states along the Mississippi River, recently announced their partnership with the National Geographic Society to create a geotourism alliance to promote travel to the Delta region. Delta Regional Authority Federal Co-Chairman Chris Masingill joined BRSI and National Geographic in announcing a DRA investment of \$300,000 in funding to be distributed over a two-year period.

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### Arkansas State Chamber, Chairman Masingill continue conversation on regimagining workforce development

Chairman Masingill joined a panel of business & industry, career tech and community college, and government

### Upcoming Events:

*Register or Apply Today*

#### September 29, 2014

##### **Promise Zones Rural Webcast**

3:00pm-4:00pm

Join HUD and USDA for an informational webcast on how Promise Zones can bring coordinated federal support to rural communities experiencing persistent poverty.

#### September 30, 2014

##### **Application Webinar: Workforce Development Capacity Building & Technical Assistance Fund**

3:00pm-4:00pm

Join DRA staff for a review of the Notice of Funding Availability for DRA's recently-announced workforce development funding program.

#### September 30, 2014

##### **Meet the Lenders-Illinois**

Carbonale, IL | 1:00pm-4:30pm

Hosted by the Illinois Small Business Development Center and U.S. SBA in partnership with DRA, this is your opportunity to meet one-on-one with lenders offering affordable lending capital for Delta small businesses.

#### October 7, 2014

##### **Reimagining the Delta Workforce Kentucky**

Lake Barkley, KY | 9:00am-3:00pm

leaders to discuss strategies for Arkansas and surrounding states to improve workforce training and better ensure skilled workers for incoming and expanding businesses. The panel was part of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce's Jobs NOW Summit. "Changes need to be systematic and holistic and in partnership with economic development," Chairman Masingill said. "We don't have the time to have the same conversations about workforce development we've had for the last 30 years. The time is now."

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## Louisiana Latest State to Reimagine the Delta Workforce

Nicholls State University joined DRA leadership in hosting the Louisiana edition of the Reimagining the Delta Workforce summit series on September 18. Louisiana's Lieutenant Governor Jay Dardenne, State Senator Norby Chabert (District 20), and House Representative John Bel Edwards (District 72), joined Louisiana educators, economic developers, business and community leaders to discuss the state's training needs for the future.

[Learn More >](#)

## Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative Meets to Float New Ideas for Economic Development

Register here for this workforce summit convening educators, economic developers, business & industry, and community leaders to discuss ways to enhance the workforce development system in Kentucky.

*\*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:

**HUD, USDA open applications for second round of Promise Zones designations | Application Deadline November 21**

**USDA requests applications for funding program with up to \$2.5 million in grants available to reduce childhood food insecurity in rural communities in America.**

**USDA Seeks Applications for Grants under the Rural Community Development Initiative | Application Deadline November 12**



The Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative met in New Orleans on September 17 to discuss new avenues for economic development and conservation along the river's shores. DRA leadership joined 25 mayors for the meeting that featured panels on container-on-barge shipping opportunities, climate change impacts on the River, and boosting exports and tourism. Additionally, the mayors announced a new partnership between the Mississippi River World Trade Center Alliance and 18 Community Foundations serving communities along the River to support local communities in planning and implementing sustainable waterfront development projects..

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