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# PRESS RELEASE

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## CDFA Recognizes Jessica Firmstone, DFCP

**—Newest Graduate of the prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) Program—**

Columbus, OH - The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is pleased to congratulate Jessica Firmstone, Business Development Coordinator, as the newest graduate of the prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) program. As a new graduate, Ms. Firmstone joins numerous others who have invested in their professional development and are ready to tackle the complexities of the development finance industry.

“We are thrilled to welcome Jessica into the ranks of DFCP graduates,” says Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFA. “CDFA looks to consistently engage the best and brightest who continuously make strides in the development finance industry’s efforts in their communities, and Jessica is a reflection of that.”

Jessica Firmstone joined Fay-Penn Economic Development Council in November 2015 as a Business Development Coordinator, responsible for facilitating the ongoing implementation and expansion of Fay-Penn’s commercial loan programs in and around Fayette County. Her duties include outreach into the community to market Fay-Penn loan programs and services and to acquire client feedback, assisting in identifying and implementing updates to Fay-Penn loan programs. She also works with clients and other financial partners in preparing small business loan packages and identifying and pursuing loan capitalization resources. Prior to her career at Fay-Penn, Jessica earned her B.A. in Economics with a minor in Political Science at Indiana University of PA and worked for ten years in commercial lending with S&T Bank. Through the education available at the American Bankers’ Association, she earned her Commercial Lending Diploma and is also pursuing the Certified Economic Developer certification through the International Economic Development Council. She is a member of the Fayette County Industrial Development Authority Board and the Downtown Connellsville Economic Vitality Committee. Jessica resides in Mount Pleasant, PA with her husband, two sons, and two dogs.

CDFA’s **Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) Program** is an intense training course learning experience and is the industry’s only comprehensive development finance professional certification program. The DFCP Program is designed to produce graduates with a comprehensive knowledge of development finance concepts, tools and applicability as well as a deep understanding of the entire development finance spectrum. Graduates of the DFCP Program gain valuable knowledge and experience within the complex development finance industry and achieve a level of understanding unmatched by any other professional certification program.

The **Council of Development Finance Agencies** is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFA is comprised of the nation’s leading and most knowledgeable members of the development finance community representing public, private and non-profit entities alike. For more information about CDFA, visit [www.cdfa.net](http://www.cdfa.net).

*CDFA: Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation*

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