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PRESS RELEASE

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CDFA Recognizes Chad Odom, 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 Chad Odom, Executive Director at the Wharton Economic Development Corporation, as the newest graduate of the prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) program. A new graduate, Mr. Odom joins numerous other graduates who have invested in their professional development and are ready to tackle the complexities of the development finance industry.

“We are happy to welcome Chad Odom into the ranks of DFCP graduates. CDFA looks to consistently engage the best and brightest in the development finance industry in this program,” states Toby Rittner, DCFP and President & CEO of CDFA. “Our hope that through their work in the DFCP program, graduates are ready to tackle critical development finance efforts in the communities where they work.”

Chad is the newly hired Executive Director at the Wharton Economic Development Corporation. Chad is previously the Economic Development Director for the City of Port Lavaca, where he had worked establishing partnerships between the city, county, Regional Economic Development Agencies, local port districts, and private industry to facilitate economic development within Calhoun County. He also oversaw Port Commission Board activities for the City of Port Lavaca’s three marine harbors. Odom’s Economic Development career began as Manager of 1st Stop for International Business Services at the World Trade Center of New Orleans where he worked closely with U.S. Department of Commerce to bring Foreign Direct Investment into the recovery efforts following Katrina. This work consisted of managing a team of undergraduate and graduate level student interns in primary business intelligence to inform incoming trade and investment delegations of opportunities that match their interests.

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 will 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.

CDFA: Advancing Development Finance Knowledge, Networks & Innovation

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