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# PRESS RELEASE

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## CDFA Recognizes Leslee Rivarola, DFCP

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

Columbus, OH — The Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) is pleased to announce Leslee Rivarola, City Administrator for the City of Basehor, as the newest graduate of the prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) program. As a new graduate, Ms. Rivarola joins fellow program graduates who have invested in their professional development and are recognized as distinguished leaders in the development finance industry.

“The CDFA team is happy to welcome Leslee into the ranks of DFCP graduates,” states Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFA. “She is a great ambassador of the DFCP program and embodies the best and brightest in the development finance industry.”

Leslee Rivarola, City Administrator for the City of Basehor, Kansas, has dedicated 23 years to public service in various capacities. She has served as City Administrator since 2019, leading transformative initiatives such as the adoption of the city’s Comprehensive Plan and Active Transportation Plan. Ms. Rivarola also commissioned Basehor’s most comprehensive Citizen Satisfaction Survey, which has guided the city’s priorities for the past five years.

As a visionary leader, Ms. Rivarola has brought the city’s goals to fruition, including the construction of a new city hall at the Basehor Civic Campus and the addition of quality-of-life amenities, such as the city’s first splash pad, event lawn, and amphitheater. She played a key role in securing Basehor’s largest economic development project, the Fareway Meat and Grocery store, which helped eliminate the city’s food desert.

Under her leadership, Basehor has secured over \$22 million in grants and external funding for capital projects, including roadway and trail improvements. Ms. Rivarola also facilitated the creation of Basehor’s first Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District, with the majority of the land within the district owned and controlled by the city.

Ms. Rivarola holds a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice Administration from Park University and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Kansas.

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 thorough 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).

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