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# PRESS RELEASE

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## CDFA Recognizes Christopher Smith, 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 Christopher Smith, Assistant Professor of Economic Development for the University of Southern Mississippi (USM), as the newest graduate of the prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) program. As a new graduate, Mr. Smith joins the ranks of fellow graduates who are recognized as emerging leaders in the development finance industry.

“CDFA is always looking to engage the best and brightest in development finance with this program, and we are happy to welcome Christopher into the ranks of DFCP graduates,” states Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFA. “Our hope is that through their participation in the DFCP program, graduates leave ready to employ development finance tools in the communities they work in.”

Christopher Smith, Ph.D. is the Assistant Professor of Economic Development at the University of Southern Mississippi (USM). Mr. Smith conducts research and teaching in the areas of real estate development and land-use planning; entrepreneurship and technology-based development; and regional economic development strategy and planning. Prior to arriving at USM, Mr. Smith was the Bureau Manager for Research and Data Analytics at the Mississippi Development Authority. He holds a Certified Business Economist designation from the National Association for Business Economics and an AICP certification from the American Planning Association. Mr. Smith holds academic degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell University, and the University of Maryland at College Park. He resides in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

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).

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

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