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# PRESS RELEASE

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## CDFA Recognizes Rachel Bakken, 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 Rachel Bakken, Senior Capital Project and Portfolio Manager for the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, as the newest graduate of the prestigious Development Finance Certified Professional (DFCP) program. As a new graduate, Ms. Bakken 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 Rachel into the ranks of DFCP graduates. She is a great ambassador of the DFCP program and reflects the best of the development finance industry,” states Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFA. “Our hope is that through their work in the DFCP program, graduates are prepared to tackle critical development finance efforts in their communities.”

Rachel Bakken is an accomplished Senior Capital Project and Portfolio Manager at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), where she plays a pivotal role in empowering small businesses across the state. In her current capacity, she is adept at negotiating, structuring, and executing commercial and industrial financing projects, particularly aimed at underserved markets.

With a strong focus on utilizing credit enhancement programs, Ms. Bakken is dedicated to improving the financial landscape for small businesses that often face barriers in obtaining necessary funding. Her expertise extends beyond the MEDC’s initiatives; she possesses extensive experience in underwriting and managing loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), specifically the 504 and 7(a) loan programs. This broad knowledge base equips her to provide comprehensive support to small business owners, enabling them to navigate the complexities of financing and achieve their growth objectives.

Throughout her career, spanning over 20 years, Ms. Bakken has consistently demonstrated her passion for small business development in both public and private sectors. As she continues to lead impactful projects at the MEDC, Ms. Bakken remains committed to her mission of helping small businesses thrive, ensuring that they have the resources and support needed to succeed in an ever-evolving marketplace.

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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