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Christopher Masingill of the Delta Regional Authority Receives Leadership Award

Federal Co-Chairman Recognized by Economic Development Industry

WASHINGTON, DC (March 30, 2015) – Christopher Masingill, Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority, was awarded with the Federal Leadership in Economic Development Programs Award by the [International Economic Development Council](#) (IEDC), for his positive impact on economic development. The honor was presented during IEDC's Federal Economic Development Forum, held March 29-31 in Arlington, VA.

"The Federal Leadership Award honors a person in the federal government who successfully supports economic development on a national scale, and Chris Masingill embodies just such a person," noted JoAnn Crary, CEcD, President of Saginaw Future Inc. in Saginaw, MI and current IEDC Board of Directors Chair.

Chairman Christopher Masingill is a dedicated public servant with a long history of championing economic development on the local, state, and federal levels. As Federal Co-chairman of the Delta Regional Authority (DRA), he leads the federal-state partnership whose mission is to create jobs, strengthen communities, and improve livelihood in the 252 counties and parishes in the eight states of the Delta region.

Chairman Masingill has long been an advocate for increased economic opportunity, previously serving as Arkansas Governor Mike Beebe's Recovery Implementation Director for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act beginning in 2006. In this role, he coordinated the dispersal of federal stimulus funds to state entities. He also served as Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, acting as the governor's liaison to the state's congressional delegation. Given the complex and nuanced nature of his previous positions, it was no surprise that in 2010, Christopher Masingill was appointed as Federal Co-Chairman of the Delta Regional Authority (DRA) by President Barack Obama.

As Federal Co-Chairman, Chairman Masingill has worked with the governors of the Delta- region states to leverage \$34.6 million in federal funding into more than \$950 million in private and public sector investments. His efforts have helped create and retain 85,000 jobs in the most distressed area of the country. During a time of economic duress in the United States, Chairman Masingill successfully supported small business and entrepreneurship as well as investment in workforce training and education efforts in the Delta region.

One of Chairman Masingill's top priorities with the DRA has been supporting entrepreneurship. To that end, in 2012 the DRA created the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Policy Framework, a comprehensive strategy designed to provide entrepreneurs with essential skills and tools for business success. Under Masingill's direction, the DRA also established the Entrepreneurship Network, which

helps entrepreneurs grow and thrive by providing them increased access to support organizations, capital, and educators.

In addition to supporting entrepreneurship, Chairman Masingill has also acted as a champion of workforce development throughout the Delta region. Understanding the importance of a skilled workforce, Chairman Masingill has guided the DRA to emphasize education at all levels. Under his leadership, the DRA launched *Re-imagining The Delta Workforce*, a comprehensive, strategic workforce development initiative, which expands existing support programs for entrepreneurs and minority business owners in all eight states. The effort leverages millions of dollars in federal, state, local and private sector funding to provide wide-ranging products and services that prepare the Delta-region's workforce for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Under Chairman Christopher Masingill's leadership, the Delta Regional Authority has become an outstanding provider of services and opportunities to a long-underserved region. His dedication to the prosperity of the Delta region is evident through the extensive body of DRA's work and the reach of its programs. The International Economic Development Council is honored to present Chairman Christopher Masingill with the 2015 Federal Leadership in Economic Development Programs Award.

About the International Economic Development Council

The [International Economic Development Council](http://www.iedconline.org) (IEDC) is a non-profit membership organization serving economic developers. With more than 4,600 members, IEDC is the largest organization of its kind. Economic developers promote economic well-being and quality of life for their communities, by creating, retaining and expanding jobs that facilitate growth, enhance wealth and provide a stable tax base. From public to private, rural to urban, and local to international, IEDC's members are engaged in the full range of economic development experience. Given the breadth of economic development work, our members are employed in a wide variety of settings including local, state, provincial and federal governments, public private partnerships, chambers of commerce, universities and a variety of other institutions. When we succeed, our members create high-quality jobs, develop vibrant communities, and improve the quality of life in their regions. www.iedconline.org

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