Opportunity Finance Network and the Citi Foundation Select Participants for 2015 Citi Leadership Program for Opportunity Finance

48 Professionals from Diverse CDFIs to Participate in Second Year of Unique Professional Development Program

Initiative Developed ‘by CDFIs for CDFIs’ to Advance Opportunity Finance Expertise Nationwide

Philadelphia (January 21, 2015) — Opportunity Finance Network (OFN) and the Citi Foundation announced today the selection of 48 community development financial institution (CDFI) professionals to participate in the second annual Citi Leadership Program for Opportunity Finance. The 2015 cohort represents emerging, mid-career, and executive level professionals from CDFIs from across 20 states and the District of Columbia.

Developed by CDFIs for CDFIs, the industry-wide Citi Leadership Program for Opportunity Finance launched in 2014. The initiative prepares participants to lead transformational change, ensures strong leadership at all levels of the industry, and promotes leaders that represent the diverse communities that CDFIs serve. The 2015 group will meet four times throughout the year and follow a curriculum that OFN developed with the Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania.

“The first year of the Citi Leadership Program was a resounding success, and we look forward to working with this next group of professionals,” said Mark Pinsky, President and CEO of OFN. “OFN welcomes these leaders to the program. Across the board, each selected participant demonstrates commitment to leading structural and systemic change in the opportunity finance industry. We are thankful for the Citi Foundation’s longstanding support of CDFIs and its dedication to developing talent, which will enable the industry to continue to raise the bar in how we serve low-income, low-wealth, and other disadvantaged communities.”

“When we have a strong roster of talented and dedicated professionals leading the CDFI industry, we have the potential to create a much deeper impact in the low-income communities that CDFIs serve,” said Brandee McHale, Chief Operating Officer of the Citi Foundation. “This program enables individuals at all levels of their careers to create a road map for personal and professional success while thinking strategically about how to influence the opportunity finance industry for generations to come.”

Representing many CDFI types and focus areas, including affordable housing finance, business and microenterprise, community facilities, and consumer finance, the 2015 Citi Leadership Program for Opportunity Finance participants are:
Executive Leaders:

- Marla Bilonick, Executive Director, Latino Economic Development Center, Washington, D.C.
- Robert Cooke, Executive Director Southwest Georgia United, Vienna, GA
- Gary Cunningham, President & CEO, Metropolitan Economic Development Association, Minneapolis, MN
- Gerardo Espinoza, Executive Director, Local Enterprise Assistance Fund, Brookline, MA
- Tara Kenchen, President & CEO, North Carolina Community Development Initiative Capital, Raleigh, NC
- Jim Thomas, Executive Director, Community Capital Development, Seattle, WA

Mid-Career Leaders:

- Robyn Bipes, Director of Lending & Programs, Greater Minnesota Housing Fund, St Paul, MN
- Stephen Borla, Chief Operating Officer, Hartford Community Loan Fund, Hartford, CT
- Tara Campbell, Vice President of Lending, Finance Fund, Columbus OH
- Cecile Chalifour, Director, California Region, LIIF, San Francisco, CA
- Nick Elders, Vice President—Technology Solutions and Services, Community Reinvestment Fund, USA, Minneapolis, MN
- Lynn Fernandez, Vice President of Lending, VEDC, Sherman Oaks, CA
- Galen Gondolfi, Chief Communications Officer, Justine PETERSEN, St Louis, MO
- Nick Massie, Director of Finance & Administration, Colorado Enterprise Fund, Inc., Denver, CO
- Juanita Hallstrom, Loan Administration Manager, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, West Sacramento, CA
- Emily Chen, Program Director, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, New York, NY
- Sarah Kitterman, Senior Loan Officer, Boston Community Capital, Boston, MA
- Nancy Lager, Director, Capital Investment, Primary Care Development Corporation, New York, NY
- Lance Loethen, Research Associate, The Reinvestment Fund, Philadelphia, PA
- Fathia Macauley, Director of Business Development, Clearinghouse CDFI, Lake Forest, CA
- Brenda Pfahnl, Program Director & Senior Loan Officer, Northcountry Cooperative Development Fund, Minneapolis, MN
- Holli Powell, Finance Director, MACED, Berea, KY
- Sarah Brennan, Executive Project Manager, Self-Help Federal Credit Union, Durham, NC
- Rodney Santiago, Manager of Lending Services/Director of Queens & Bronx BOC, BOC Capital Corp., Brooklyn, NY
• Rocio Vallejo, Director of Lending, PeopleFund, Austin, TX
• Maureen Shilling, CFO, Housing Trust Silicon Valley, San Jose, CA
• Jane Bittcher, Chief Lending Officer, Bridgeway Capital, Pittsburgh, PA
• Isabel Chanslor, Director of NDC Business Lab, Neighborhood Development Center, St. Paul, MN

Emerging Leaders:

• Leah Apgar, Lending Team Leader, Housing & Healthy Communities, New Jersey Community Capital, New Brunswick, NJ
• Kelly Bougere, Loan Officer, Originations, Capital Impact Partners, Arlington, VA
• Josh Glickenhaus, Loan Officer, Entrepreneur Works, Philadelphia, PA
• Kavita Gobburi, Loan Officer, Northern California Community Loan Fund, San Francisco, CA
• Kayla Jenkins, Business Development Officer, PathStone Enterprise Center, Rochester, NY
• Sadaf Knight, Policy & Research Director, The Support Center, Durham, NC
• Jake Levine, Associate/Interim Loan Fund Director, City First Enterprises, Washington, D.C.
• Jen Leybovich, Vice President of Programs and Strategy, OBDC Small Business Finance, Oakland, CA
• Sarah Marshall, Vice President of Operations, North Side Community Federal Credit Union, Chicago, IL
• Amanda Mwamuka, Senior Associate, Portfolio Management, Nonprofit Finance Fund, New York, NY
• Katie Nelson, Marketing & Development Associate, Working Solutions, San Francisco, CA
• Sung Ju Park, Investment Officer, CEI Capital Management LLC, Wiscasset, ME
• Temo Maldonado, Underwriting Director, LiftFund Texas, San Antonio, TX
• Carly Perera, Loan Officer, Pacific Community Ventures, San Francisco, CA
• Rachel Reilly Carroll, Investment Marketing Manager, Enterprise Community Loan Fund, Columbia, MD
• Idaima Robles, Lending Team Manager & Latino Outreach Program Manager, Accion Chicago, Chicago, IL
• Dionna Sargent, Community Development Officer, Great Lakes Capital Fund, Lansing, MI
• Emerson Sekins, Asset Building Coordinator, Washington Access Fund, Seattle, WA
• Jennifer Trepinski, Loan Officer, CSH, New York, NY
• Dafina Williams, Senior Associate, Public Policy, Opportunity Finance Network, Philadelphia, PA
Quotes from the 2014 Citi Leadership Program for opportunity finance participants:

The Citi Leadership Program for Opportunity Finance “caused me to think differently about Leadership. The cross-cohort communication was extremely valuable and the relationships established during our time together will enhance my effectiveness going forward.” — Inaugural Class Mid-career Leader

“The information and experiences of the leaders from Wharton was amazing. It was such a privilege to meet and learn from them.” — Executive Leader

The Citi Leadership Program helped me “understand that although I don’t manage people I can still lead from my seat.” — Emerging Leader

###

**About Opportunity Finance Network**
OFN, the leading network of private financial institutions, creates growth that is good for communities, investors, individuals, and the economy. Members of OFN are community development financial institutions (CDFIs) that deliver responsible lending to help low-wealth and low-income communities join the economic mainstream. Through 2012, OFN’s Network originated more than $33.3 billion in financing in urban, rural, and Native communities, and financed development/rehab of 960,000 housing units, started or expanded nearly 94,000 business and microenterprises, and helped create or maintain nearly 600,000 jobs. More information is available at: www.ofn.org.

**About the Citi Foundation**
The Citi Foundation works to promote economic progress and improve the lives of people in low-income communities around the world. We invest in efforts that increase financial inclusion, catalyze job opportunities for youth, and reimagine approaches to building economically vibrant cities. The Citi Foundation’s "More than Philanthropy" approach leverages the enormous expertise of Citi and its people to fulfill our mission and drive thought leadership and innovation. Additional information can be found at www.citifoundation.com.