



For Immediate Release

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Wenko graduates from OU EDI

Shawn Wenko, Executive Director of Williston Economic Development recently graduated from a prestigious economic development certificate program. Wenko received a diploma from the University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute (OU EDI) on Nov. 8. The intensive five-day session was held in New Orleans, Louisiana Nov. 3-8.

The OU EDI experience includes three core courses; business retention and expansion, real estate development and reuse and economic development finance. The program also requires a minimum of three elective courses such as marketing and attraction, strategic planning, entrepreneurial and small business development and managing economic development organizations.

"OU EDI is the premier organization dedicated to training economic development professionals. These graduates represent some of the finest economic development practitioners in the U.S. working to support their local communities. My congratulations to them," said Mary Ann Moon.

The training is designed to help economic developers improve the well-being, quality of life and opportunities for individuals and businesses in their communities.

"EDI is a great option for economic developers and others related to the field to learn new skills or sharpen what they already know," said Wenko. "It also provides a great opportunity to build one's network throughout the industry."

To graduate from the OU EDI certificate program, Wenko completed 117 total course hours (72 hours online and 45 hours in-person). The nationally recognized program helps prepare



Pictured are Mary Ann Moon, Deen OU EDI, Shawn Wenko WED Executive Director and Kirk Garton, Director at OU EDI. Submitted photo

economic developers for the latest trends and challenges in their industry. The courses are taught by instructors who must meet rigorous standards for knowledge and experience.

"The vast knowledge of the instructors is overwhelming. They are giants in the field of economic development with many years of experience and history in working different scenarios," said Wenko.

OU EDI began in 1962 and is celebrating its 56th year of service to the economic development community. Fully accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC), the program has trained over 5,000 graduates and remains the world's leading economic development teacher.

Wenko has been with WED since 2008. He has served as executive director for the past four years.