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STEWART SELECTED FOR DELTA LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Cross County EDC official chosen by Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe

WYNNE – Cross County’s top economic development official has been chosen by Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe to participate in the Delta Leadership Institute (DLI), which is sponsored and operated by the Delta Regional Authority.

Aaron Stewart, executive director of the Cross County Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Corp., will begin his participation in the program on Sept. 9 when he attends the first DLI meeting at the Paul W. Bryant Conference Center in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

“I believe that you will be an excellent representative of Gov. Beebe and will utilize your talents to the best of your abilities in the Delta Region,” said Chris Masingill, director of agency and external affairs for Beebe’s office, in a letter formally informing Stewart of his selection. “As you know, the DLI strives to provide talented community leaders, like yourself, with essential tools that prepare you to meet the challenges faced by the Delta in the 21st Century.”

DLI is designed to create leaders with a regional and national perspective. The first class of the institute met in 2005.

The institute’s goal is to improve decisions made by leaders across the region. Each of the governors from the Delta states and the federal co-chairman nominate four people annually for the program, resulting in a class of 36 Delta leaders.

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“I am very honored to be chosen for the next class of the Delta Leadership Institute,” said Stewart. “The skills that I obtain from the institute will allow me to better serve the citizens of Cross County in my role at the Chamber and Economic Development Corp.”

Stewart became executive director of the Cross County Chamber and EDC in June 2007. He previously served as a Business Developer at the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, Executive Director of the Clark County Industrial Council and as an aide to U.S. Representative Mike Ross (AR-4). Stewart has a bachelor’s degree from Henderson State University in Arkadelphia and a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock and graduated from both the Community Development Institute at the University of Central Arkansas in Conway and the Economic Development Institute at the University of Oklahoma.

Stewart, his wife Faith and their son Jackson live in Wynne.

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