

For Immediate Release  
October 20, 2010

For More Information  
Courtney Wood 618-409-6044

## **Shari Albrecht Attends Midwest Community Development Institute**

Moline, IL: More than 80 community leaders, including Shari Albrecht participated in the Midwest Community Development Institute (CDI) held from August 9-12 at the Stoney Creek Inn in Moline, Illinois. The Midwest CDI is a nationally-recognized training program in community and economic development designed for development professionals, community leaders, and elected officials. CDI is hosted by the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs (IIRA) at Western Illinois University.

The Midwest CDI trains community and economic development professionals, elected officials, and community volunteers in the “how tos” of community and economic development and the techniques to bring positive change to their communities. CDI can also lead to a nationally-recognized certification as a Professional Community and Economic Developer, a valuable credential for development professionals.

“I found many of the presenters and techniques beneficial to my organization. CDI provides great training for economic developers,” said Albrecht. “I plan to incorporate the methods I have learned this week into the economic plans for Macoupin County.”

“Every year, I am impressed with the participants, as much as the presenters,” says CDI Director John Gruidl. “The participants are remarkably talented and diverse, including local economic developers, community developers, mayors, city council members, city and village administrators, staff from state, regional and federal agencies, and community volunteers. These folks are on the front lines leading change in their communities”.

The four-day CDI featured speakers from across the country who are experts in community and economic development, including Robert Pittman from Janus Economics, a consulting company, who has 20 years experience in helping businesses find sites internationally and Ron Hustedde from Kentucky who developed an award-winning program in entrepreneurship. Participants also participated in a field trip, such as one along the Mississippi Riverfront in the Quad Cities which is being converted from old industrial properties to an attractive urban environment.

Participants also heard from experts on a variety of topics, including facilitation skills, leadership, marketing your community, the role of the private sector in economic development, strategic planning, and fund-raising.

Completion of three years of CDI is one of the requirements to sit for the Professional Community and Economic Developers (PCED) exam. PCED is a professional certification available through the Community Development Council (CDC). By successfully completing Year Three, Albrecht has moved closer to meeting certification requirements and qualifying for certification as a Professional Community and Economic Developer.

For more information about the Midwest CDI including registration forms visit [www.midwestcdi.org](http://www.midwestcdi.org), or email [info@midwestcdi.org](mailto:info@midwestcdi.org) or call 309- 298-2237.