



**Dear *IDA Insights* Readers:**

It is with much sadness that we wish Denise Barrett much success with the Peace Corps in the Republic of Georgia, but please join me in welcoming Necole to the Foundation for the Mid South.

In this newsletter you will learn more about Necole and the renewed commitment of our regional champion, Entergy. As we head into the summer let us continue to ensure that the progress achieved within the region continues to sizzle like the weather. In other Foundation for the Mid South news, the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid South IDA Training Institute is shaping up to be an informative time in Little Rock.

If you have any ideas for future *IDA Insights* issues, would like to feature news from your IDA program, or just want to say hello please contact Necole S. Irvin at 601.863.0495 or at [nirvin@fndmidsouth.org](mailto:nirvin@fndmidsouth.org)

Sincerely,  
Mid South IDA Initiative Staff

#### **Table of Contents**

[Foundation for the Mid South News](#)

[IDA Champion's Corner](#)

[IDA Policy & Funding Update](#)

[IDA Story](#)

### **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid South IDA Training Institute “Getting our Ducks in a Row”**

The time is fast approaching. The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid South IDA Training Institute to be held in Little Rock, Arkansas, August 29 – 31, 2005. The conference will provide workshops

focused on sustainability and policy. We will also have our 2005 RFP available at the training institute.

This year's IDA Training Institute will focus on sustaining existing infrastructure and formulating strategy on how to best position the Mid South for the future. We will examine best practices from within our region, as well as study lessons learned from nationwide experts in the field.

The two-day conference is intended to benefit those involved or interested in IDA programs, asset development, and related policy. Registration fees for the conference are \$100 for early registration, which is available until July 15, 2005. The fee for general registration after July 15, 2005 will be \$130.

More information, including registration forms, are available on the website. I hope that you have already received a Save-the-Date postcard. If not, please contact me to ensure that we have accurate contact information. Please check back for the latest news. We look forward to convening IDA practitioners, partners, and stakeholders for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid South IDA Training Institute!

[Back to top](#)

## **Entergy Remains Committed to IDAs**

In March, Entergy Corporation demonstrated their unwavering support for IDAs and for the Mid South regions' working families by committing another year of funding to the Mid South IDA Initiative. With this support, the Foundation for the Mid South will complete a third grant cycle for IDA programs and collaboratives throughout Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and southeast Texas.

We are thrilled to be able to continue supporting the work of IDA programs in the region. The third grant cycle will focus on providing continued operating support to proven, well-established IDA programs. The Foundation for the Mid South will also offer funding to state coalitions that are working to streamline components of IDA programs such as securing state, federal, and private funding, and coordinating training and technical assistance for programs.

The Mid South region has a solid infrastructure of quality IDA programs, and each state has a statewide coalition that is working to keep the IDA network alive. Entergy's continued support will ensure that this infrastructure can be sustained for many years. Thanks to Entergy – and let their commitment be a challenge to others in the private sector to contribute time and resources to asset building for our region!

[Back to top](#)

## **Policy & Funding Update:**

In the last edition of *Insights* several federal bills were discussed. In April the 2005 ASPIRE Act was re-introduced in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The ASPIRE Act will establish kids accounts for all children. Currently there are no Mid Southerners co-sponsoring the legislation. We have four legislators on committees of jurisdiction (Reps. Jefferson (D-LA) and McCrery (R-LA) and Senators Lincoln (D-AR) and Lott (R-MS)). Make it a point to stay updated on the policy issues that are important to you and that have potential to enhance your work. We all need to do our part to advocate for asset development. Visit [www.cfed.org](http://www.cfed.org) for contact information for lawmakers and more specific instructions for voicing your concerns.

The June 15 deadline is fast approaching for AFIA (Assets for Independence Act) funding is fast approaching. For more information visit <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/assetbuilding/>.

[Back to top](#)

## **IDA Story: Change within the Foundation**

April 29<sup>th</sup> was Denise's last day with the Foundation for the Mid South. She and her husband are taking on a new challenge in the Republic of Georgia. Peace Corps. They are scheduled to leave on June 11 and will spend two years working in non-governmental organization (NGO) development and management.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Foundation for the Mid South's Mid South IDA Initiative for the last two years. I have enjoyed getting to know people throughout the region and I have learned a tremendous amount from my colleagues in the field. My last day with the Foundation for the Mid South is April 29, 2005.

With the leaving of Denise, I would like to introduce myself as the new program officer with the Mid South IDA Initiative. I am so excited to have the opportunity to work with all of you in building the assets of our region. I am a Mid South native, born and raised in Slidell, Louisiana. I have had the opportunity to work at home and abroad and am happy to be back in the South and close to my family. I look forward to getting out of the office and visiting as many IDA programs in the Mid South. I encourage you to contact me as I continue to find my footing. Please feel free to give me a call if you need any information or if you would just like to talk. I am looking forward to getting to know you and the wonderful work that has been done in our region in the field of asset development.

[Back to top](#)