



For Immediate Release
Monday, Feb. 22, 2016

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U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce Coming to Mobile on Wednesday, Feb. 24

MOBILE, Ala. – On Wednesday, Feb. 24, Jay Williams, administrator of the Economic Development Administration (EDA) and assistant secretary of Commerce for Economic Development, will be in Mobile to review Southwest Alabama’s Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) effort.

The meeting, open to media and invited guests, will take place from 8 to 9:30 a.m. in the board room of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, 451 Government St.

During his time in Mobile, Williams plans to meet with leaders of the public private partnership, *Advancing Southwest Alabama*, to discuss ongoing activities of the local “Manufacturing Community” designation, tour several local manufacturing facilities and receive an update on the region’s workforce development efforts, innovation and recent economic development successes.

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Williams will be available for interviews immediately following the meeting at the Chamber. Also available to speak about the manufacturing communities designation will be Bill Sisson, president & CEO of the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, and Lynne Chronister, vice president of research and economic development for the University of South Alabama.

About IMCP:

Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) is an initiative designed to revolutionize the way federal agencies leverage economic development funds. It encourages communities to develop comprehensive economic development strategies that will strengthen their competitive edge for attracting global manufacturer and supply chain investments. Through IMCP, the federal government is rewarding best practices – coordinating federal aid to support communities' strong development plans and synchronizing grant programs across multiple departments and agencies. Non-designated communities nationwide can learn from the best practices employed by these designated communities to strengthen American manufacturing.

About Jay Williams:

Williams was appointed by President Obama to serve as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development and was sworn into office in May 2014.

As the administrator of the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration (EDA), Williams is charged with leading the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the global economy.

He also served in the White House as deputy director for the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. In this position, he led efforts to engage mayors, city council members, and county officials around the country.

Williams served as the mayor of Youngstown, Ohio, from 2006 to 2011. During his tenure as mayor he led efforts that had a direct impact on improving the quality of life for the citizens of Youngstown.

Williams is the recipient of the 2007 John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award. The JFK Library Foundation, in conjunction with the Harvard University Institute of Politics, annually recognizes two exceptional young Americans – under the age of 40, whose contributions in elective office, community service or advocacy demonstrate the impact and value of public service in the spirit of President John F. Kennedy.

Prior to being elected, Williams spent five years as the director of community development for the city. Before transitioning into public service, Williams enjoyed a distinguished career in banking, which included stints at the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland and First Place Bank, as a vice president.