



Embargoed Release

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Fisackerly Wins 40 Under 40 in Economic Development Award

Columbus, MISSISSIPPI – Meryl Fisackerly, Chief Operating Officer of the Golden Triangle Development LINK has been announced as a recipient of the 2023 Economic Development 40 Under 40 Award, the biennial award recognizing rising stars under 40 years old in the economic development industry.

The awards program is hosted by Development Counsellors International (DCI), a New York-based integrated marketing firm that works with economic development and travel organizations around the globe, and Jorgenson Consulting, a leading national executive search firm serving organizations in non-profit, economic, and community development industries. An independent selection committee of six economic development leaders and site selection consultants evaluated nominations based on demonstration of strong leadership, commitment and innovation every day in the workplace.

“The purpose-driven work of economic development plays a vital role in communities around the world, and much of it is led by young professionals,” said Julie Curtin, president of DCI’s economic development practice. “These 40 rising stars are contributing their creativity, dedication and leadership to make a tremendous impact in their communities and our industry as a whole, and I so look forward to what lies ahead in their careers.”

“Meryl has emerged as one of our industries generational talents, said Joe Max Higgins, CEO GTR LINK. One of the quickest learners I have worked with in my career. She possesses an uncanny ability to compartmentalize, analyze and organize a plan for dealing with complex issues. I am not surprised her skills are being recognized.”

In her current role, Fisackerly’s scope of work includes oversight of the organizational day to day operations, industrial recruitment and retention, and private-sector fund raising. Meryl also serves as the administrator of the Lowndes County Industrial Development Authority where she handles all day-to-day operations, including; management of a budget in excess of \$2.5 million, the oversight of all land development and the management of all contractor providers.

“The economic development industry continues to evolve and these rising leaders are stepping up to the challenge,” said Todd Jorgenson, managing director and principal of Jorgenson Consulting, Inc. “Congratulations to these 40 winners – and to the communities that are lucky to benefit from their expertise.”

Award winners were announced last night at a reception hosted by DCI and Jorgenson at the JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass Resort & Spa. The ceremony was held in conjunction with the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) 2023 Leadership Summit, the only conference held exclusively for Certified Economic Developers and senior managers in the profession.

For more information on the 40 Under 40 awards program and this year’s winners, visit econdev40under40.com.

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About The Golden Triangle Development LINK

The Golden Triangle Development LINK is the nationally-recognized, regional economic development organization for Clay, Lowndes and Oktibbeha counties. Located in northeast Mississippi, the GTR LINK’s current record of investment totals over \$9 billion and in excess of 9,500 jobs.

About DCI

Development Counsellors International (DCI) is the leader in travel, economic development and talent attraction marketing. Since 1960, DCI has worked with more than 500 cities, regions, states and countries, helping them attract business investors, visitors and workers. DCI has offices in New York and Denver. For more information, visit aboutdci.com or follow [@aboutDCI](https://twitter.com/aboutDCI) on Twitter.

About Jorgenson Consulting

Founded in 1992, Jorgenson Consulting has worked diligently over the past 29 years to establish itself as a premier national executive search firm. With a focus on the fields of non-profit, economic and community development, we partner with our clients to help them identify and secure the highest caliber of executive talent. Our goal is to develop a thorough understanding of our clients and leverage that knowledge with our own expertise and resources to source executive talent that can truly serve the organization by yielding economic benefits while also contributing to a community's competitive advantage. www.jci-inc.net