

# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Re: Weld Graduates from Institute for Organization Management**

LUBBOCK, Texas – The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce and Institute for Organization Management, the professional development program of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, is pleased to announce Christye Weld, IOM, Vice President of Programs, Services and Events, received the IOM designation on Wed., June 6 in Madison, WI. Awarded to all graduates of the Institute program, the IOM graduate recognition signifies completion of 96 hours of course instruction in nonprofit management.

“Institute graduates are recognized across the country as leaders in their industries and organizations,” said Raymond P. Towle, IOM, CAE, the U.S. Chamber Foundation’s vice president of Institute for Organization Management. “These individuals have the knowledge, skills, and dedication necessary to achieve professional and organizational success in the dynamic association and chamber industries.”

Since its commencement in 1921, the Institute program has been educating tens of thousands of association, chamber, and other nonprofit leaders on how to build stronger organizations, better serve their members and become strong business advocates. Institute’s curriculum consists of four weeklong sessions at five different university locations throughout the country. Through a combination of required courses and electives in areas such as leadership, advocacy, marketing, finance, and membership, Institute participants are able to enhance their own organizational management skills and add new fuel to their organizations, making them run more efficiently and effectively.

“Our Board of Directors strongly believes in staff development and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce challenges new ways of thinking while fostering individual growth through interactive learning and networking opportunities,” said Eddie McBride, IOM, President and CEO of the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce. “This is an invaluable experience and we are thrilled to add a sixth IOM graduate to our current staff as I know it will immensely benefit the chamber and our members.”

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*The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce represents more than 1,900 businesses and over 79,000 employees on the South Plains which accounts for over \$2 billion in annual household earnings in Lubbock and West Texas. Since 1913 the Chamber, as a catalyst for business growth; a convener of leaders and influencers; and a champion for a stronger community, has served as a unified voice of business by actively advocating for a pro-jobs, pro-growth, pro-business climate.*