Mark Brown graduates from nationally renowned Economic Development Institute

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BIRMINGHAM, Ala. – May 22, 2019 – Mark Brown, vice president of business retention and expansion for the Birmingham Business Alliance (BBA), recently graduated from the prestigious University of Oklahoma Economic Development Institute (OU EDI) at the OU EDI spring session in Indianapolis, Ind.

OU EDI is an intensive 117-hour, two-year certificate program which provides a broad spectrum of advanced education for economic development professionals. Classes focus on three major core areas, including business retention and expansion, real estate and credit analysis, as well as areas of concentration in marketing, strategic planning, entrepreneurship and managing economic development organizations.

"We are extremely proud of Mark and his graduation from OU EDI," said BBA Interim President and CEO Fred McCallum. "Those that graduate from OU EDI represent the best and brightest economic development professionals in the nation. Mark is a tremendous asset to the BBA and to the entire Birmingham region."

Brown, who has been with the BBA since 2011, created the BBA's Business Retention and Expansion program in 2012. The program is designed to provide the proper information, resources and individualized assistance for the retention and expansion of small-, medium- and large-sized businesses.

As a part of the program, the BBA staff visited 138 companies representing over 21,000 local employees in 2018.

OU EDI began in 1962 and is fully accredited by the International Economic Development Council (IEDC). It has trained over 5,500 graduates and remains the world's leading economic development teacher.

The Birmingham Business Alliance promotes economic growth in Birmingham, Jefferson County and throughout the seven-county metropolitan area. For more information about the BBA visit its website at www.birminghambusinessalliance.com.

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