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**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SEED & VENTURE FUNDS 18TH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES JOHN FERNANDEZ AS KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

**U. S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development,
John Fernandez, to Address the NASVF Conference Hosted by
Arlington-Based Center For Innovation**

SEPTEMBER 15, 2011 – PHILADELPHIA AND ARLINGTON, TEXAS----The National Association of Seed and Venture Funds (NASVF) and Center for Innovation (CFI), Arlington, Texas announced today the featured keynote speaker for the premier industry conference is John Fernandez - U.S. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Economic Development. Fernandez will speak during the 18th Annual NASVF Conference October 17-19 being held at the Arlington Sheraton.

The NASVF Conference theme is "Innovation Capital – Leading America's Recovery" and will be attended by the nation's leading early stage fund managers, angel and institutional investors, tech commercialization experts and federal lab professionals. Mr. Fernandez will deliver the keynote and also be a panelist addressing "Bottoms Up vs. Top Down Federal Funding-Attracting Dollars for Industries in Your Region" focusing on regional growth strategies to target federal funding based on regional strengths and assets.

As the Administrator of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), Fernandez 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.

With over 13 years of executive experience, Fernandez has earned a reputation as a strategic thinker, creative problem solver and effective manager. Prior to his appointment, Fernandez led the new development and acquisition team at First Capital Group, an Indiana-based real estate investment firm. Fernandez played a critical role in expanding the firm's regional and national investment footprint. When he was the mayor of Bloomington, Indiana, Fernandez worked with local business and Indiana University leaders to launch Bloomington's Life Sciences Partnership, securing more than \$243 million in private investments and creating more than 3,700 jobs.

“It is an honor to have John Fernandez speak at our annual conference” said Jim Jaffe, CEO of the Philadelphia-based NASVF. “Our conference attendees welcome the opportunity to learn more about the EDA programs that are supporting states, regions and their respective entrepreneurs to support product commercialization to create new jobs.”

Participants at the NASVF Conference exchange best strategies for building and managing strategic investment programs. Newly formed organizations receive the benefit of different viewpoints, while established organizations track new approaches and resources. The conference offers professionals the opportunity to interact with specialized practitioners from outside their local networks to discuss new methods of facilitating capital formation.

“The CFI is excited to be hosting the NASVF Annual Conference here in Arlington, Texas and recognizing John Fernandez as a keynote speaker,” said Chairman and CEO of the Center For Innovation, Wes Jurey. “The world class deal flow of NASVF and the message being delivered by the EDA are consistent with the strategic initiatives of the CFI.”

About the National Association of Seed & Venture Funds

The National Association of Seed & Venture Funds (NASVF) is an international membership organization that advocates for the growth of seed and early-stage innovation capital. NASVF connects the people in the world of venture capital and regional economic development. Collaborating with public and private fund managers and tech transfer professionals, the NASVF is committed to building local economies by investing in entrepreneurs.

About the Center For Innovation

The Center For Innovation is a non-profit LLC, established in 2002 to serve as a catalyst for technology based economic development. comprised of collaborative partnerships and agencies, collectively focused on three strategic initiatives; (1) creating world class deal flow; (2) catalyzing the formation of venture capital; and (3) training, recruiting, and retaining the talent and know how necessary to support the innovation economy.

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If you'd like more information about the NASVF Annual Conference being held in Arlington, Texas, please visit www.nasvf.org.