

“IGNITE: Accelerating Entrepreneurship & Building Capacity for Strong Communities”

2022 WEDA WINTER CONFERENCE

Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake and The Lord Mansion – Legislative Reception

Preliminary Conference Agenda as of 2/21/22

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

7:00 pm **Informal No-Host Pre-Conference Dinner** (Westwater Restaurant)

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

10:00 - 11:45 am **WEDA Q1 Board Meeting – Board Members only** (State Room)

11:30 am - 12:00 pm **Conference Registration Opens** (Ballroom Foyer)

12:00 - 12:30 pm **Buffet Lunch & Interactive Networking** (Fir Ballroom)
Sponsor: LiveStories

Welcome and Introductions: Gary Ballew, Vice President for Economic Development, Greater Spokane, Inc. & WEDA Board Chair

12:30 - 1:00 pm **Opening General Session**
Sponsor: Thurston Economic Development Council

Land Acknowledgement: Kris Peters, Chairman, Squaxin Island Tribal Council

Remarks from WEDA Leadership & Sponsors

1:00 - 1:40 pm **Accelerating Inclusive Entrepreneurship**

Keynote Speaker: Monique Idlett, Founder & Managing Partner, Reign Ventures and Discovery’s Undercover Billionaire

Sponsor: Pierce County

Moderator: Gina Stark, Economic Development Manager, Port of Bellingham & WEDA Board Vice Chair

1:40 - 2:45 pm **Fireside Chat: Building Capacity to Accelerate Entrepreneurship**
Sponsor: Washington Small Business Development Center
Moderator: Teresa Brum, Deputy Director of Economic Development, City of Vancouver & WEDA Board Member
Panelists:

- Natalie Charley, Consultant/Former Director, Taala Fund
- Caroline Cummings, CEO, Regional Accelerator & Innovation Network (RAIN)
- Michael Fong, Regional Administrator, US Small Business Administration, Region X
- Elizabeth Scallon, Go To Market & Operations, Amazon Alexa Startup and Fund

2:45 – 3:00 pm **Snack Break**

- 3:00 - 4:30 pm **WEDA 2022 Economic Development Awards Ceremony**
All nominees will be recognized and brief presentations will be given by award winners.
 Sponsor: Greater Spokane, Inc.
 Presenters: WEDA Awards Committee
- 5:30 - 7:00 pm **WEDA Legislative Reception (Lord Mansion)**
 Sponsor: Port of Seattle
- 8:00 pm **Emerging Leaders Get Together (Westwater Lounge)**
- Evening **After Hours No-Host Get Together (Westwater Lounge)**

Thursday, March 3, 2022

- 8:00 am **Conference Registration Opens (Ballroom Foyer)**
- 8:00 - 8:30 am **Buffet Breakfast & Interactive Networking (Fir Ballroom)**
 Sponsor: Economic Alliance Snohomish County
- 8:30 - 9:30 am **Thrive! CEO Panel: “CEO Successes, Entrepreneurship, Expansion and Leadership During a Pandemic”**
 Sponsor: Impact Washington
 Moderator: Susan Nielsen, Rural & Small Business Services Manager, Washington State Department of Commerce
 Panelists:
- Rich Fowles, CEO, Scratch & Peck Feeds
 - Jen Gangwish, CEO, College Hill Custom Threads
 - Mike Hagen, CEO, American Structures & Design
- 9:30 - 10:30 am **Washington State Commerce Industry Sector Leads & Partners Panel: *Emerging Trends & Opportunities in Building Capacity, Recovering & Growing Jobs***
 Sponsor: Washington State Department of Commerce
 Moderator: Chris Green, Assistant Director, Office of Economic Development & Competitiveness, Washington State Department of Commerce & WEDA Board Vice Chair
 Panelists:
- Alison Beason, Director of Economic Development, Life Science & Global Health Sector, Washington State Department of Commerce
 - Janea Delk, Executive Director, Community Economic Revitalization Board
 - Amandine Noel-Crabtree, Aerospace International Trade Specialist, Washington State Department of Commerce
 - Madison Roy, Agriculture Economist, Washington State Department of Agriculture
 - Brian Young, Director of Economic Development, Clean Technology Sector, Washington State Department of Commerce
- 10:30 - 11:00 am **Roundtable Strategic Discussions with Key Commerce Staff & Partners: *Igniting Entrepreneurship & Building Capacity in Your Communities***
 Sponsor: King County

11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Legislative Discussion with WEDA Partners: *State Opportunities to Build Capacity for Economic Recovery***

Sponsor: Port of Vancouver

Moderator: John Sternlicht, CEO, Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County & WEDA Board Member

Panelists:

- Candice Bock, Director of Government Relations, Association of WA Cities
- Eric Johnson, Executive Director, Washington State Association of Counties
- Kris Johnson, President & CEO, Association of Washington Business
- Tiffany Scott, President & CEO, Benton Franklin Workforce Development Council on behalf of Washington Workforce Association & WEDA Board Member
- James Thompson, Executive Director, Washington Public Ports Association

12:00 - 1:15 pm **Lunch & Legislative Update: *Responding to the Call for Action***

Economic Development Committee Chairs & Ranking Members

Sponsor: Washington State Microenterprise Association

Moderator: Alisha Benson, CEO, Greater Spokane, Inc. & WEDA Board Incoming Chair

Panelists:

- Senate Ways & Means Committee Ranking Member Lynda Wilson (R-17-Clark Co.)
- House Community & Economic Development Committee Chair Cindy Ryu (D-32-Shoreline/South Snohomish County)
- House Community & Economic Development Committee Ranking Member Matt Boehnke (R-8-Tri-Cities)

Keynote Speaker: Lisa Brown, Director, Washington State Department of Commerce

Sponsor: Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County

1:15 – 1:30 pm **Closing Remarks & Action Items**