

“Building Foundations for a Strong Economic Future”

2023 WEDA SPRING CONFERENCE

Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake & the Governor’s Mansion – Legislative Reception

Agenda *preliminary -- as of 3/10/23*

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

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

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

10:00 - 11:45 am **WEDA Q1 Board Meeting** (Puget Room)

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

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

Welcome and Introductions: Alisha Benson, President & CEO, Greater Spokane Inc. & WEDA Board Chair

12:30 - 1:00 pm **Opening General Session**

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

Remarks from WEDA Leadership & Sponsors

1:00 - 1:40 pm ***Identifying the Foundations for a Strong Economy***

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Vange Ocasio Hochheimer, Associate Professor of Economics, Whitworth University

1:40 - 2:30 pm **Fireside Chat: *Solid Economic Foundations, Strong Communities***

- Jesse Downs, Tribal Administrator, Willapa Bay Enterprises/Shoalwater Bay Tribe
- Kristina Hudson, CEO, OneRedmond & OneEastside
- Mark Riker, Executive Secretary, Washington State Building & Construction Trades
- City of Anacortes Councilmember Ryan Walters

2:30 - 2:45 pm **Snack Break**

3:00 - 4:30 pm **WEDA 2023 Economic Development Awards Ceremony**
Honoring Outstanding Achievement in Economic Development

All nominees will be recognized and brief presentations will be given by award winners.

5:30 - 7:00 pm **WEDA Legislative Reception** (Governor’s Mansion)

8:00 pm ***Building the Pipeline for Our Profession: Emerging Leaders Get Together*** (Westwater Lounge)

Evening ***Building Partnerships & Friendships, Old & New: After Hours No-Host Get Together***
(Westwater Lounge)

Thursday, March 30, 2023

- 8:00 am **Conference Registration Opens** (Fir Ballroom Lobby)
- 8:00 - 8:45 am **Buffet Breakfast & Interactive Networking** (Fir Ballroom)
- 8:45 - 9:30 am **Morning General Session: *Building Strong Foundations for a More Inclusive Economy***
- Fireside Chat:**
- **Kendrick Stewart, Interim Director, Washington State Department of Commerce**
 - **Chris Green, Assistant Director, Economic Development & Competitiveness, Washington State Department of Commerce & WEDA Board Vice Chair**
- 9:30 - 10:30 am **Washington State Commerce Industry Sector Leads & Partners Panel: *Emerging Trends, Innovations & Opportunities to Build Economic Foundations***
- Moderated by:** Chris Green, Assistant Director, Economic Development & Competitiveness, Washington State Dept. of Commerce & WEDA Board Vice Chair
- Alison Beason, Life Science & Global Health Sector Lead
 - Shannon Halberstadt, Creative Economy Sector Lead
 - Madison Roy, Agriculture Economist, Washington State Department of Agriculture
 - Stephanie Scott, Innovation Cluster Accelerator Program Director
 - Brian Young, Director of Economic Development, Clean Technology Sector
- 10:30 - 11:00 am **Roundtable Strategic Discussions with Commerce Sector Leads/Key Commerce Staff & Partners: *Exploring Opportunities to Build Stronger Communities***
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Legislative Discussion with WEDA Partners: *State Opportunities to Build Economic Foundations***
- Candice Bock, Director of Government Relations, Assoc. of Washington Cities
 - Eric ffitch, Executive Director, Washington Public Ports Association
 - Kris Johnson, President & CEO, Association of Washington Business
 - Mark Mattke, CEO, Spokane Workforce Council for WA Workforce Association
- 12:00 - 12:40 pm **Lunch & Legislative Update: *Responding to the Call for Action***
- Legislative Economic Development Leaders Panel**
- Senate Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade Committee Chair Derek Stanford (D-1st District-N. King Co./So. Snohomish County) **(invited)**
 - Senate Ways & Means Committee Ranking Member Lynda Wilson (R-17th District-Clark County) **(invited)**
 - House Innovation, Community & Economic Development & Veterans Committee Chair Cindy Ryu (D-32nd District-NW King & SW Snohomish Counties)
 - House Innovation, Community & Economic Development Committee Ranking Member Mike Volz (R-6-Spokane Co.) **(invited)**
- 12:40 - 1:30 pm **Closing Session**
- Keynote Speaker: Daniel Seddiqui, Founder & CEO, “Living the Map”**
- Closing Remarks & Action Items**