

ADAPT & IMPACT: *Economic Development in a Rapidly Transforming World*
2024 WEDA WINTER CONFERENCE

Saint Martin's University & the Governor's Mansion – Legislative Reception

preliminary Agenda *as of 1/16/24*

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

7:00 pm **Informal No-Host Pre-Conference Dinner**

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

9:30 - 11:00 am **WEDA Q1 2024 Board Meeting** (Capital Room, Hampton Inn & Suites Olympia/Lacey)

11:30 am - 12:00 pm **Conference Registration Opens** (Norman Worthington Conference Center, Saint Martin's University, Lacey)

12:00 - 12:30 pm **Buffet Lunch & Interactive Networking** (Norman Worthington Conference Center)

Welcome and Introductions: Betty Capestany, Economic Development Director, Pierce County & WEDA Board Chair

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

Land Acknowledgement

 Remarks from WEDA Leadership & Sponsors

1:00 - 1:40 pm **Artificial Intelligence: A Transformational Tool with Major Implications**

Keynote Speaker

1:40 - 2:30 pm **Fireside Chat: *Opportunities & Risks of AI in Economic Development & Beyond***

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

3:00 - 4:30 pm **WEDA 2024 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 Our Pipeline as We ADAPT & IMPACT: Emerging Leaders Get Together***

Evening ***Impactful Partnerships & Friendships, Old & New: After Hours No-Host Get Together***

Thursday, February 29, 2024

8:00 am	Conference Registration Opens (Norman Worthington Conference Center, Saint Martin's University, Lacey)
8:00 - 8:45 am	Buffet Breakfast & Interactive Networking (Norman Worthington Conference Center)
8:45 - 9:30 am	Morning General Session: <i>How Can We ADAPT & IMPACT Toward a More Inclusive, Innovative & Sustainable Economy?</i> Fireside Chat: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Fong, Director, Washington State Department of Commerce
9:30 - 10:30 am	Washington State Commerce Industry Sector Leads & Partners Panel: <i>Emerging Trends, Innovations & Opportunities in a Rapidly Transforming World</i>
10:30 - 11:00 am	Roundtable Strategic Discussions with Commerce Sector Leads/Key Commerce Staff & Partners: <i>Exploring Economic Development Opportunities as We ADAPT & IMPACT</i>
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	Legislative Discussion with WEDA Partners: Impactful Partnerships & Shared Interests for Economic Development <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Association of Washington Cities• Washington Public Ports Association• Association of Washington Business• Washington Workforce Association
12:00 - 1:30 pm	Lunch & Legislative Update: <i>Responding to the Call for Action</i> Legislative Economic Development Leaders Panel Closing Session Keynote Speaker Closing Remarks & Action Items