



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

Saint Martin's University & Governor's Mansion-Legislative Reception

Agenda

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

7:00 pm **Informal No-Host Pre-Conference Dinner** (Brewery City Pizza, 4253 Martin Way E, Lacey, WA)

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

9:30 - 11:00 am **WEDA Q1/Q2 2024 Board Meeting** (Capital Room, Hampton Inn & Suites Olympia/Lacey, 4301 Martin Way E, Olympia, WA)

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

12:00 - 12:20 pm **Buffet Lunch & Interactive Networking** (Norman Worthington Conference Center)
Sponsor: Washington Small Business Development Center

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

12:20 - 1:00 pm **Opening General Session**
Sponsor: Economic Development Board Tacoma-Pierce County

Land Acknowledgement: Chay Squally, Councilmember, Nisqually Indian Tribe

Local Government Welcome: City of Lacey Mayor Andy Ryder

Opening Remarks from WEDA Leadership & Sponsors

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

Keynote Speaker: Michael Mattmiller, Senior Director of Government Affairs, Microsoft

Moderator: Amanda Wallner, Economic Development Manager, City of Richland & WEDA Board Vice Chair & Conference Planning Committee Chair

- 1:40 - 2:30 pm **Fireside Chat: *Opportunities & Risks of AI in Economic Development & Beyond***
Sponsor: Greater Spokane, Inc.
- Featured Speakers:**
- Scott Brown, Research Associate, International Economic Development Council
 - David Shim, Co-Founder & CEO, ReadAI
- Moderator: Jennifer Baker, President, Columbia River Economic Development Council & WEDA Board Treasurer
- 2:30 - 2:45 pm **Snack Break**
Sponsor: Yakima County Development Association
- 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.
Sponsor: King County
- 5:30 - 7:00 pm **WEDA Legislative Reception (Governor’s Mansion - NOTE: PHOTO ID REQUIRED)**
Sponsor: Port of Seattle
- 7:30 pm ***Building Our Pipeline as We ADAPT & IMPACT: Emerging Leaders Get Together***
(Ricardo’s Kitchen + Bar, The Fireside room, Lacey)
Sponsor: Minority Business Development Agency – Washington Business Center
- 8:00 - 9:30 pm ***Impactful Partnerships & Friendships, Old & New: After Hours Get Together***
(Ricardo’s Kitchen + Bar, The Fireside room, Lacey)
Sponsor: Columbia River Economic Development Council

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)
Sponsor: Washington State Microenterprise Association
- 8:45 - 9:30 am **Morning General Session: *How Can We ADAPT & IMPACT Toward a More Inclusive, Innovative & Sustainable Economy?***
Sponsor: Thurston Economic Development Council
- Featured Speaker – Fireside Chat:**
- **Michael Fong, Director, Washington State Department of Commerce**
- Moderator: Alisha Benson, CEO, Greater Spokane Inc. & WEDA Board Member

9:30 - 10:30 am

Washington State Industry Leads Panel: *Emerging Trends, Innovations & Opportunities in a Rapidly Transforming World*

Sponsor: Impact Washington

Moderator: Chris Green, Assistant Director, Economic Development & Competitiveness, Washington State Department of Commerce & WEDA Board Vice Chair

Panelists:

- Alison Beason, Life Science & Global Health Sector Lead, Washington Commerce
- Stephanie Bowman, Maritime Industry Director, Washington Commerce
- Chris Green, Assistant Director, Economic Development & Competitiveness, Washington Commerce & WEDA Board Vice Chair – *focusing on Clean Technology*
- Julia Terlinchamp, Special Assistant to the Director, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Robin Toth, Director of Economic Development, Aerospace Sector, Washington Commerce

10:30 - 11:00 am

Roundtable Strategic Discussions with Commerce Sector Leads/Key Commerce Staff & Partners: *Exploring Economic Development Opportunities as We ADAPT & IMPACT*

Sponsor: Washington State Department of Commerce

11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Legislative Discussion with WEDA Partners: *Impactful Partnerships & Shared Interests for Economic Development*

Sponsor: Clallam Economic Development Council

Moderator: Mike Bomar, Director of Economic Development, Port of Vancouver, USA & WEDA Board Member

Panelists:

- Candice Bock, Director of Government Relations, Association of Washington Cities
- Katie Condit, CEO, Workforce Central on behalf of Washington Workforce Association & WEDA Board Member
- Eric ffitich, Executive Director, Washington Public Ports Association
- Eric Johnson, Executive Director, Washington State Association of Counties
- Kris Johnson, President & CEO, Association of Washington Business

12:00 - 12:45 pm

Lunch & Legislative Update *Responding to the Call for Action*

Sponsor: Washington State Employment Security Department

Legislative Economic Development Leaders Panel

Sponsor: Port of Vancouver, USA

Speakers (*all tentative pending Floor activity*):

- Senate Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade Committee Vice Chair Noel Frame (D-36th-Seattle)
- Senate Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade Committee Member Matt Boehnke (R-8th District-Tri Cities)
- House Innovation, Community & Economic Development & Veterans Committee Chair Cindy Ryu (D-32nd District-NW King & SW Snohomish Counties)

Moderator: Gina Stark, Economic Development Manager, Port of Bellingham & WEDA Board Incoming Chair & Legislative Committee Chair

12:45 - 1:30 pm

Closing Session

Sponsor: Grow America

Keynote Speaker - *Transforming Real Estate to ADAPT & IMPACT*

- **Marc Angelillo, Managing Member, Stream Real Estate**

Moderator: Gary Ballew, Vice President of Economic Development, Greater Spokane Inc. & WEDA Board Member

Closing Remarks & Action Items

2024 WEDA SUMMER CONFERENCE

Please save June 18-20, 2024 for our annual Summer Conference in Spokane, which will follow the IEDC Economic Future Forum in Spokane!

Both will be held at the Davenport Grand Spokane Hotel.

Watch www.wedaonline.org for details.

Thank you to our 2024 Sponsors!

