



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

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

*preliminary* Agenda *as of 2/23/24*

**Tuesday, February 27, 2024**

7:00 pm                    **Informal No-Host Pre-Conference Dinner** (Brewery City Pizza, Lacey)

**Wednesday, February 28, 2024**

9:30 - 11:00 am            **WEDA Q1/Q2 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 - 12:20 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**

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)**  
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-36<sup>th</sup>-Seattle)
- Senate Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade Committee Member Matt Boehnke (R-8<sup>th</sup> District-Tri Cities)
- House Innovation, Community & Economic Development & Veterans Committee Chair Cindy Ryu (D-32<sup>nd</sup> 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**