



ENERGIZING FOR THE FUTURE: *Expanding Our Capacity for Energy & Economic Opportunity*
2025 WEDA WINTER-SPRING CONFERENCE

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

Agenda

Tuesday, March 25, 2025

7:00 pm **Informal No-Host Pre-Conference Dinner**
 Brewery City Pizza, 4353 Martin Way E, Lacey

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

9:30 - 11:00 am **WEDA Q1/Q2 2025 Board Meeting** – *Board Members & WEDA Staff only*
 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
 5300 Pacific Avenue, Lacey

12:00 - 12:20 pm **Buffet Lunch & Interactive Networking**
 Norman Worthington Conference Center
 Sponsor: Columbia River Economic Development Council

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

12:20 - 1:00 pm **Opening General Session: *Kicking Off the Energizing***
 Sponsor: Clallam Economic Development Council

Land Acknowledgement: Bob Iyall, Nisqually Tribal Elder; CEO, Medicine Creek Enterprise Corporation & Port of Olympia Commissioner

Remarks from WEDA Leadership & Sponsors

1:00 - 1:40 pm ***Defining Our Energy & Economic Opportunity Gaps & Opportunities***

Keynote Speaker: Washington State Department of Commerce Director Joe Nguyễn
 Sponsor: Pierce County

1:40 - 2:30 pm **Fireside Chat: *Demands, Opportunities & Risks of Growing Energy Capacity***
Sponsor: Port of Seattle

Panelists:

- Rick Dunn, General Manager, Benton Public Utility District (PUD)
- Nancy Hirsh, Executive Director, NW Energy Coalition
- Heather Kurtenbach, Executive Secretary, Washington State Building & Construction Trades Council
- Jane Van Dyke, Clark Public Utilities Commissioner; President, Washington Public Utility Districts Association

2:30 - 2:45 pm **Snack Break**
Sponsor: Seattle Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce

3:00 - 4:30 pm **WEDA 2025 Economic Development Awards Ceremony**
Sponsor: Washington Small Business Development Center

Honoring Outstanding Achievement in Economic Development

All nominees will be recognized and brief remarks will be given by award winners, with longer "best practice" presentations for the Projects of the Year & Innovation awards.

5:30 - 7:00 pm **WEDA Legislative Reception & Celebration of WEDA's 30th Anniversary**
Governor's Mansion
Sponsor: Greater Spokane Inc.

Featuring (*brief speaking program at 6:15 pm*):

- House Technology, Economic Development & Veterans Committee Chair Cindy Ryu (D-32nd District-NW King & SW Snohomish Counties)
- Senate Business, Financial Services & Trade Committee Chair Claudia Kauffman (D-47th District-South King County)

HONORING WEDA'S 2025 LEGISLATIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CHAMPIONS

State Senator Adrian Cortes
State Representative Stephanie Barnard

7:30 pm ***Energizing Our Pipeline: Emerging Leaders Get Together***
Ricardo's Kitchen + Bar, The Fireside, 676 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey
Sponsor: Pacific Power

8:00 - 9:30 pm ***Energizing Partnerships & Friendships, Old & New: After Hours Get Together***
Ricardo's Kitchen + Bar, The Fireside, 676 Woodland Square Loop SE, Lacey
Sponsor: Washington State Department of Enterprise Services

Thursday, March 27, 2025

- 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: RAIN Catalysts
- 8:45 - 9:30 am **Morning General Session: *Energy Capacity as an Economic Imperative***
Sponsor: Impact Washington
- Keynote Speaker:**
- **Aaron August, Senior Vice President, Chief Customer & Transformation Officer, Puget Sound Energy**
- 9:30 - 10:30 am **Washington State Industry Experts Panel: *Emerging Industry Trends & Innovations as We Energize Economic Opportunity***
Sponsor: King County
- Panelists:**
- Rachele Ames, Vice President for Economic Development, CleanTech Alliance
 - Joshua Berger, Founder & President/CEO, Washington Maritime Blue
 - Kayla Coffee, CEO & President, Aerospace Futures Alliance
 - Laura Ruderman, CEO, Technology Alliance
 - Julia Terlinchamp, Special Assistant to the Director, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- 10:30 - 11:00 am **Roundtable Strategic Discussions with Key Commerce & State Agency Staff & Partners: *Energizing Economic Opportunity***
Sponsor: Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County
- 11:00 am - 12:00 pm **Legislative Discussion with WEDA Partners: *Energizing Partnerships as We Foster Economic Opportunity***
Sponsor: Port of Vancouver USA
- Panelists:**
- Candice Bock, Director of Government Relations, Association of Washington Cities
 - Eric ffitch, Executive Director, Washington Public Ports Association
 - Miriam Halliday, CEO, Workforce Southwest Washington on behalf of Washington Workforce Association
 - Paul Jewell, Government Relations Director, Washington State Association of Counties
 - Emily Wittman, Government Relations Director, Association of Washington Business

12:00 - 12:45 pm

Lunch & Legislative Update: *Energizing for the Call for Action*

Sponsor: aLocal Solutions

Legislative Economic Development Leaders Panel

Sponsor: Washington State Microenterprise Association

Speakers (*all tentative pending Floor activity*):

- House Technology, Economic Development & Veterans Committee Chair Cindy Ryu (D-32nd District-NW King & SW Snohomish Counties)
- Senate Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade Committee Ranking Member Perry Dozier (R-16th District-Walla Walla)
- House Technology, Economic Development & Veterans Ranking Member Stephanie Barnard (R-8th District-Tri Cities)

12:45 - 1:30 pm

Closing Session: *Energizing Ourselves to Keep Fostering Economic Opportunity*

Sponsor: Washington Workforce Association

Keynote Speaker: Jason Broadwater, President & CEO, RevenFlo

Sponsor: Thurston Economic Development Council

Closing Remarks & Action Items

2025 WEDA SUMMER CONFERENCE

Please save August 5-7, 2025 for our annual Summer Conference in Tacoma!

Watch www.wedaonline.org for details.

Thank You to Our Sponsors



WEDA's 2025 Winter/Spring Conference is a recognized event for IEDC's CEcD re-certification credits.