



**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

*close-to-final Agenda as of 3/22/2025*

**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 Nguyen  
 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 presentations will be given by award winners.*
- 5:30 - 7:00 pm      **WEDA Legislative Reception & Celebration of WEDA's 30<sup>th</sup> 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-32<sup>nd</sup> District-NW King & SW Snohomish Counties)
  - Senate Business, Financial Services & Trade Committee Chair Claudia Kauffman (D-47<sup>th</sup> District-South King County)
- 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 ffitich, 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-32<sup>nd</sup> District-NW King & SW Snohomish Counties)
  - Senate Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade Committee Ranking Member Perry Dozier (R-16<sup>th</sup> District-Walla Walla)
  - House Technology, Economic Development & Veterans Ranking Member Stephanie Barnard (R-8<sup>th</sup> 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**

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## 2025 WEDA SUMMER CONFERENCE

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

Watch [www.wedaonline.org](http://www.wedaonline.org) for details.

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# Thank You to Our Sponsors



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