

WHY WE BELONG...

Members of the Washington Economic Development Association are leaders in the field and are excited about the opportunities the Association provides them to expand their professional skills, increase communication opportunities, build relationships with fellow professionals, have an impact on public policy, and access relevant information.



Here's what some of them say about WEDA membership:

"WEDA is the only statewide economic development organization in Washington. WEDA gets things done legislatively, in best practices and through networking. WEDA combines the strengths of urban, rural, east-west, private and public professionals to drive job creation in every corner of the state."

- **Bruce Kendall**, Tacoma-Pierce County EDB

"WEDA is an effective statewide organization that is inclusive of economic development partners advocating for improved economic conditions in the state of Washington. The more economic development professionals involved, the stronger we are."

- **Ted Sprague**, Cowlitz EDC

"WEDA enables a small, rural organization to have a voice in economic development policy. Individually we may not be recognized but together we form an economic entity that cannot be ignored."

- **Debbie Strand**, Kittitas County EDC

"I believe in the profession. I believe we make a difference in Washington's economy. I believe that being in the profession requires engaging and contributing to making a better organization. WEDA membership makes us better professionals."

- **Joe Tortorelli**, Economic Development Northwest

"WEDA provides me with many opportunities to meet with and learn from others engaged in economic development. I strongly encourage everyone engaged in the field to join the association and expand their knowledge base."

- **Ken Olson**, Community Trade and Economic Development

"I have found WEDA programs and conferences to be an excellent source in strengthening my professional education and it allows us input on major economic development issues that impact our region and the overall state economy."

- **Diahann Howard**, Port of Benton

"Initially, we supported WEDA because supporting the profession and promoting economic development on a statewide basis as the right thing to do. We quickly learned the value in the legislative agenda and WEDA's networking opportunities. Economic development is important to everyone in the state, so why wouldn't you support the organization that champions the cause?"

- **Carl Adrian**, TRIDEC

“WEDA is a major contributor to the economic vitality of the state. If you benefit from a good economic environment, you should be a member.”

- **Phil Eng**, Evergreen Community Development

“WEDA brings together varied stakeholders with a common goal to achieve economic development. The association’s efforts have raised the issue of economic development considerably. From a city perspective, it has advanced the economic development goals important to our community.”

- **Ellie Chambers-Grady**, City of Lakewood

“Together, we support long-term economic growth consistent with our need to sustain our growing population and work for a healthy environment for future business and industry.”

- **Marc Horton**, HDR Engineering

“I encourage everyone engaged in our profession to join to make the organization richer, its programs more valuable, and its public policy activities more effective. WEDA assures that our rural county issues are heard and acted upon.”

- **Pam Kelley**, Lincoln County EDC

“For the past 27 years, WEDA and its predecessors have provided me with important information, technical assistance, and professional networking opportunities that have been critical to my career. The organization has never been more important to the economic success as it is today.”

- **C. Mark Smith**, C. Mark Smith and Associates

“WEDA provides the economic development community an opportunity to have a statewide voice before the Legislature. It’s also a powerful source for economic development education and networking.”

- **Michael Tracy**, Grays Harbor EDC

“WEDA is a statewide organization that hears and values my rural voice. WEDA’s legislative initiatives have had a direct and positive impact on my community. WEDA looks at the big picture of economic development in the state, allowing me to focus on my work but to stay in touch with important state-wide issues.”

- **Jennie Dickinson**, Dayton Chamber of Commerce

“WEDA provides many valuable professional development opportunities and is a terrific resource for best practices and economic development contacts. It offers much to those who want to grow and enhance their knowledge and contact base.”

- **David Kleitsch**, City of Lynnwood