



The Voice of Economic Development

WEDA Newsletter - November 2018

Working Together for Jobs & Economic Prosperity Across Washington State

Message from the Board Chair, Jonathan Smith



I hope your fall has been a productive one so far. Thanksgiving is just around the corner and that also means a new State Legislature will be convening soon in January. WEDA is cranking up the volume as your Voice of Economic Development in Washington. This is the first edition of a new WEDA monthly newsletter after a long hiatus. In it, we will be updating you on WEDA activities, progress on our State Legislative Agenda, providing Tips of the Trade for Economic Development Professionals, and highlighting examples of cutting-edge initiatives in our field in the Innovation Corner. Feedback and article ideas are always welcomed!

Following a strong WEDA Summer Conference in Prosser in August, we had a well-attended Legislative Retreat in September at Suncadia. Also in September, after the WEDA Board undertook an RFP and selection process, we were pleased to start a new partnership for our association management and lobbying services. The RFP process served as an opportunity to review where WEDA is positioned as an organization and our strategic direction for the future. Suzanne Dale Estey is doing a great job as our new Executive Director along with her partners, Jennifer Ziegler, WEDA's new lobbyist and Samantha Gotkin, who is supporting our Events & Operations. The board is excited about the new ideas, energy and strategic approach that Suzanne, Jennifer and Samantha are bringing to WEDA as we work to elevate the commitment to economic development statewide.

We need your continued engagement and ideas as we continue to serve you and strengthen WEDA! Please join our WEDA team as an investor for 2019, and once you do, join us for our regular Legislative Committee conference calls, or help us plan the Winter Conference (March 5-6, 2019) on the WEDA Conference Planning Committee. Let's keep *Working Together for Jobs & Economic Prosperity Across Washington!*