



The Voice of Economic Development

WEDA Newsletter – October 2019

Working Together for Jobs & Economic Prosperity Across Washington State

Message from the Executive Director, Suzanne Dale Estey *Building on Our Momentum, Moving Forward Together*



Happy Fall! I am writing from Wenatchee where the Washington State Department of Commerce's Associate Development Organization/Economic Development Council Best Practices meeting is taking place. From the Pybus Public Market to the emerging Chelan Douglas Regional Port Authority, this is a community and region where people are working together, challenging the status quo, innovating and getting things done in economic development. And this is happening across Washington State – and thank goodness, as there are communities large and small, rural and urban that are still struggling.

WEDA is continuing to grow and strengthen as your Voice for Economic Development Across Washington. A year into my role as Executive Director, we have tremendous momentum, with 25 new members, a record number of sponsorships and two record-breaking, content-rich conferences held this year. WEDA is also becoming much more engaged and relevant in Olympia, and led efforts to secure the first new regional economic development investment by the Legislature since 2007!

But we have much more work to do. Economic development is fundamentally about improving quality of life in our communities, and we all know a community or unemployed person that needs help. Without jobs for our residents and revenues for our governments to pay for important services such as public safety, transportation, parks and education, families and communities erode. It's not a partisan/urban vs. rural/or business vs. labor issue – the economic prosperity of all our communities matters to all of us.

I want to be sure to thank the WEDA Board leadership for their patience and support as we have been in "re-startup" mode with WEDA over the past year. I am grateful to our entire WEDA Board, which is an amazing group of economic development leaders from across the state. And we wouldn't be making progress without the stellar work of my friends Jennifer Ziegler, WEDA's lobbyist and Samantha Gotkin, our former Events & Operations consultant, and [Carey Sheffield](#), who started this month in this role.

Please join us all as we help elevate the commitment to economic development statewide. We need your continued engagement and ideas as we continue to serve you and strengthen WEDA! If you are a WEDA investor, please join our first annual [Legislative Roundtable on October 10](#). (If you aren't currently a member of the WEDA team, [join us as an investor](#), and once you do, join us for our regular Legislative Committee conference calls, or help us plan the Winter Conference (February 5-6, 2020) on the WEDA Conference Planning Committee. We are also ramping up our Marketing & Communications Committee and you will continue to see improvements to our website and communications.

Let's keep Working Together for Jobs & Economic Prosperity Across Washington!

