

ONWARD

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

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Data center bill goes through at last: A message from Lisa Goodman, Member of The Benaroya Company Executive Team and EDB Vice Chair

The 2022 legislative session yielded some big economic development wins, including passage of the [data center bill](#). The legislation expands current sales and use tax exemptions to provide incentives for locating technology infrastructure across the state. Important for Pierce County, the legislation extends to urban facilities some existing incentives previously limited to rural areas.

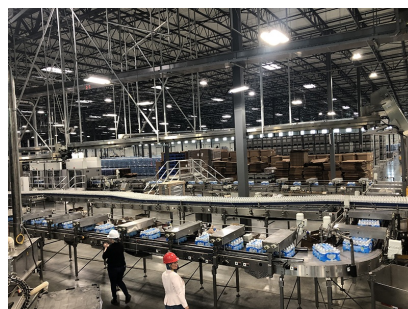
This victory wouldn't have happened without tremendous support from Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier, [Pierce County Council](#), [Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce](#), Pierce County Building & Construction Trades Council, the cities of [Tacoma](#) and [Puyallup](#), and the [Washington Economic Development Association](#).

Data centers, like the 86-acre [Centeris South Hill](#) data hub (owned and operated by The Benaroya Company) are vital to our state's economy, providing critical digital infrastructure for broadband communications, cloud computing, AI/machine learning, smart cities technology and more. The centers provide clean jobs, support other forms of economic activity and impose very little impact on public services.

Before passage of the data center legislation, Washington was the only state that restricted sales and use tax incentives geographically. The extended incentives will level the playing field and help restore Washington's competitive position for important technology investments.



2022 legislative session: Significant gains for economic development



Niagara Bottling keeps growing in Frederickson

The Niagara Bottling Frederickson

The short 2022 Washington State legislative session was quite impactful for economic development and small business assistance.

[Read more](#)

plant just completed a \$35 million dollar expansion that adds another line and more jobs to the local economy. It's the latest chapter in a Pierce County business recruitment triumph that keeps on giving.

[Read more](#)



United with Ukraine

The EDB condemns the war being waged on the citizens of Ukraine by Russian forces. Like so many others around the world, we call on Russia to end the hostilities and the suffering.

[Read more](#)



UW Tacoma Milgard Hall: A home for innovation

A new building on the rise at the University of Washington Tacoma will help meet the growing need for STEM programming in the South Sound and much more.

[Read more](#)



Port of Tacoma leads way on habitat restoration

A great environment can coexist with a great economy. In fact, they nourish one another. Learn more about the Port of Tacoma's new Lower Wapato Creek habitat restoration site along Highway 509.

[Read more](#)



Goodwill Connect tackles digital equity and training gap

A six-month pilot program will help get people access to computers and training to assist them with job searches and connect with other services and resources.

[Read more](#)



Silverback Marine drops anchor in Tacoma

Silverback Marine is setting a new standard for custom aluminum boats. The company has seen its unique vision come together—and business boom—since moving to new space in the Port of Tacoma. Owner Ian Gracey credits the region's heritage, talent and support from the City of Tacoma for his company's success.

[Read more](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Military Affairs Forum, April 13

The in-person event at

OMWBE certification workshop, April

Startup fundraising bootcamp, April

La Quinta Inn and Suites Conference Center in Tacoma will focus on the 2020 Regional Economic Impact Analysis of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, done in collaboration with the UW Tacoma's Center for Business Analytics.

[Read more/register](#)

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Learn about the benefits of small business certifications, including Minority Business Enterprise (MBE), Woman Business Enterprise (WBE), Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE), and Small Contractor and Supplier.

[Read more/register](#)

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Attention Tacoma startups! Learn more about different types of capital, venture fundraising 101, pitch deck best practices, and how to run a fundraising process.

[Read more/register](#)

NEWSBRIEFS

NOW HIRING: Kitsap Economic Development Alliance water vehicle cluster

KEDA received a \$500,000 grant from the Department of Commerce to launch the Washington Autonomous Vehicle Cluster. KEDA is looking for a program manager and business development growth manager to lead the charge.

[Read more/apply](#)

Kilmer secures \$4.5M to support affordable housing and jobs on Tacoma's Hilltop

U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer championed federal funding that aims to revitalize the historic neighborhood and help ensure space is attainable for residents and BIPOC-owned businesses.

[Read more](#)

Gordon Thomas Honeywell, Pierce County net WEDA honors

The Washington Economic Development Association celebrated outstanding achievement in economic development at their 2022 Winter Conference in Olympia in March.

[Read more](#)

Save The Date

**2022
EDB ANNUAL
MEETING**

NOVEMBER 16, 2022
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

**COME FOR THE MEETING
STAY FOR THE CELEBRATION!
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON**

TACOMA ARMORY
1001 S YAKIMA AVE
TACOMA, WA 98405

Great news! The 2022 EDB Annual Meeting is on and in person. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information. (Boy oh boy...do we look forward to seeing you.)

NEWS

[Pierce County buys downtown Tacoma building as office market gains steam](#)

[Port of Tacoma eyes multimillion-dollar plan to ease container backups](#)

[Sound Credit Union, UW Tacoma announce FinTech Pitch Competition](#)

[What businesses need to know about the current cyber threat landscape](#)

[Learning to live with COVID: Two years of lessons learned](#)

[Small businesses offer more to find and keep workers](#)

[MacKenzie Scott gifts \\$15M to four regional Habitat for Humanity affiliates](#)

[The Northwest Seaport Alliance breaks records](#)

[Tech industry driving U.S. office leasing, as companies expand into new markets](#)

[National Science Foundation to grant \\$1.5M to UW Tacoma's ACCESS in STEM](#)

Team With Us

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Onward is a service of the EDB, a non-profit corporation focused on recruitment and retention of primary businesses in Tacoma and Pierce County, Washington, USA.

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