

ONWARD

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

June 2023 | No. 277 | [ChooseTacomaPierce.org](https://www.choosetacomapierce.org)



Greater together: A message from Alisha Benson, Chief Executive Officer of Greater Spokane Inc., and WEDA chair

This was a good year for the advancement of legislation that supports economic development across the state of Washington, including site-readiness funding and a critical revenue stream that helps rural counties position themselves for business recruitment, retention and expansion.

COVID was the catalyst that began to change the conversation around the importance of investment in

our ecosystem. It also spotlighted the vital roles played by the 34 associate development organizations that make up the [Washington Economic Development Association \(WEDA\)](#) - including [Greater Spokane Inc.](#) and the [Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County](#).

We've made great progress over the last couple of bienniums. And we still have a lot of work ahead to engage all communities and the people within them, including small and BIPOC-owned businesses. To do that, we must continue to do a great job of storytelling. Economic development is not always the most tangible thing. Real people, real stories and real impact are what matter.



Legislative session yields economic development gains

When the final gavel dropped on this year's Washington State legislative session, there was much to celebrate around legislation that boosts economic development in the state.

[Read more](#)



Housing takes center stage

Washington State lawmakers approved more than \$1 billion to support housing and homelessness efforts in the next two years.

[Read more](#)



Legislation prompts re-do for airport plan

New legislation will restart the process for finding a new airport site and addressing the state's aviation needs over the next 20 years.

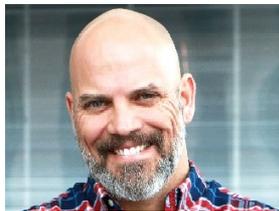
[Read more](#)



EDB welcomes new board members

The addition of several new members to its board of directors brings the EDB's board membership closer to the demographics of our region.

[Read more](#)



Seeing results: Dean Burke talks tourism and more

The Travel Tacoma CEO and President recently sat down with the EDB to share an update on tourism, sports and meetings, as well as a look ahead.

[Read more](#)



Are you ready to export? June 28: Meet the Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association

The Small Business Administration offers free monthly webinars on export assistance that feature conversations with Washington Export Outreach members. [Read more and register](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Project proposals due June 9: UW Tacoma Milgard Center for Business Analytics

If you have a business problem or are seeking data-driven insights in your organization, UW Tacoma Business Analytics grad students may have the solution.

[Read more](#)

Celebrate Juneteenth in Pierce County

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the end of slavery in the United States. Find out how you can celebrate African American history and culture in Pierce County.

[Read more](#)

Pierce County business leaders take top regional SBA awards

The Washington State Small Business Administration recently honored Jim Lee of Tool Gauge; architect Jennifer Weddermann; and Jess Cherian of ST Fabrication.

[Read more](#)

Port of Tacoma awards funds to Pierce County projects

Twelve local projects were selected to receive funding through the Port of Tacoma's Local Economic Development Investment Fund in 2023.

[Read more](#)

Tacoma cited for innovation amid retail changes

Tacoma is one of eight cities highlighted in a national report that examines innovative initiatives and approaches to retail recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read more](#)

The Business Collective: Coaching, connecting and collaboration

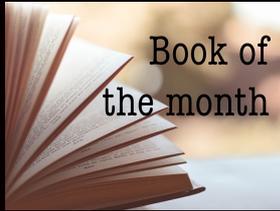
Want to learn more about one of this year's awesome Excellent 10 awardees? The Business Collaborative helps small businesses in the South Sound grow.

[Watch the video](#)



Up next: Paris Air Show

The EDB will be part of the largest Washington State delegation to attend the [Paris Air Show](#) later this month. Pierce County delegates include Bruce Kendall, EDB CEO and President; Sarah Bonds, EDB Vice President for Business Recruitment; Betty Capestany, Pierce County Economic Development Director; Dave Morell, Pierce County Councilmember; and David Baublits, City of Eatonville Mayor. Watch for a recap in the next issue of Onward.



What are you reading?

Brian Marlow, South Puget Sound Market President and National Head of Investment and Fiduciary Measurement for Key Private Bank, recommends [Measure What Matters](#) by John Doerr.

“Doerr teaches how to identify important objectives that have the power to transform your business, and then to define the key results that mark the path to reaching the objective.”

NEWS

[Pierce County ranks among statewide leaders in incoming investment](#)

[Tacoma is rallying retailers with great expectations](#)

[Scholastic nabs last space in Sumner industrial park](#)

[Small business grants you can apply for in June](#)

[Businomics: Bill Conerly connects the dots](#)

[National hotel chain to build near Cheney Stadium](#)

[How Washington's outdoor economy became a billion-dollar business](#)

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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