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BOARD** TACOMA  
PIERCE COUNTY

ONWARD

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

April 2024 | No. 287 | [ChooseTacomaPierce.org](https://ChooseTacomaPierce.org)



### **A stronger bridge to legal education: A message from Dr. Ali Modarres, UW Tacoma Assistant Chancellor for Community Engagement**

For years, South Sound residents did not have local access to a legal education. Through the University of Washington Tacoma Legal Pathways program, we created a bridge from our campus to legal education and careers. Now, we're ready for the next phase.

The South Sound Hybrid Hub is an important partnership between UW Tacoma and Seattle University School of Law, and a great opportunity to serve an underserved community. The program combines virtual and in-person learning and offers broadened opportunities for place-based working individuals and caregivers seeking a legal education.

It's a positive for all the South Sound, including law firms that provide essential services in our communities critical for economic development. More people will be able to get and use their legal education in the place they want to be – Tacoma-Pierce County.

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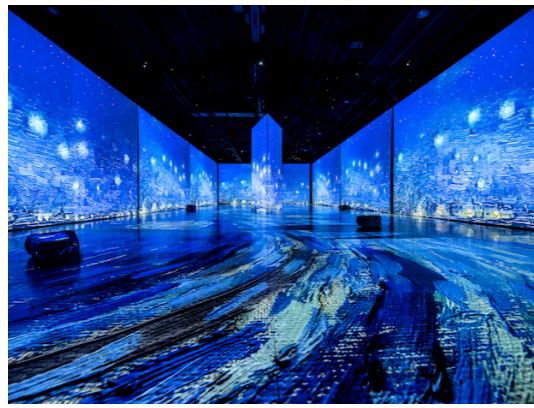
## **2024 EDB Annual Meeting recap**



## 2023: A can-do spirit that sets us apart

The EDB measures results in five-year increments. Here's a snapshot of 2019-2023.

[Read more](#)



## The Excellent 10: Making an impact in the South Sound

This year's recipients range from awe-inspiring events and innovative programs to game-changing solutions for the future.

[Read more](#)



## EDB honors Derek Kilmer, Brown & Haley

A master of economic development and an iconic candy company were honored at this year's EDB Annual Meeting.

[Read more](#)



## Higher ed leaders share workforce solutions

Pierce County's higher education leaders discussed the state of workforce preparedness in the South Sound.

[Read more](#)

**Thank you, Annual Meeting sponsors.** The 2024 EDB Annual Meeting could not have happened without the generosity of our sponsors. A big thank you to: Platinum sponsors Umpqua Bank and MultiCare; Gold Sponsors The Benaroya Company, City of Lakewood, City of Tacoma, Key Bank, Sound Credit Union, Tacoma Public Utilities and Virginia Mason Franciscan Health; and Silver Sponsors Absher Construction, Banner Bank, Brookfield Properties, Brown & Brown, Gordon Thomas Honeywell, Pierce County, Propel Insurance, SeaPort Sound Terminal LLC, University of Washington Tacoma, US Oil Par Pacific, WorkForce Central, and a combined sponsorship between Bates Technical College, Clover Park Technical College, Pierce College and Tacoma Community College.





***A well-deserved accolade.*** The EDB Executive Board honored (and surprised) CEO Bruce Kendall with the organization's Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his 25 years at the EDB's helm. Kendall is slated to retire in August 2024. [Read more](#)

Check out more photos from this year's EDB Annual Meeting [here](#).



## South Sound Hybrid Hub broadens access to legal education

A new partnership will help increase access to legal education and careers, and legal services, for residents of the South Sound region.

[Read more](#)

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Apply by April 3: BECU Inclusive Entrepreneur Program

The free entrepreneurship program for BIPOC founders includes mentorship, business tools, and access to seed funding.

### Tacoma businesses: Tap into talent at the Employ Ability Hiring Event April 4

The job fair will offer Tacoma businesses the opportunity to connect with qualified job seekers who have disabilities and learn about the Tacoma Work Opportunity \$1,000 tax credit.

### Apply by April 28: SBA T.H.R.I.V.E. Emerging Leaders Reimagined

This executive-level training series offers opportunities for small business owners to work with coaches and mentors, gain skills, and develop connections with peers, local leaders and the financial community.

[Read more](#)[Read more](#)[Read more](#)

### Pierce County projects net WEDA awards

Investment and innovation are happening in the South Sound, and the Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA) has taken note.

[Read more](#)

### May 8: Green Jobs & Pathways Summit

Mark your calendar for the day-long Green Jobs & Pathways Summit, slated for May 8 at Clover Park Technical College. The event is sponsored by City of Tacoma and WorkForce Central. Stay tuned for more details.

### State offers funding options for small and growing businesses

DOC loans can be used to help purchase new equipment, renovate, expand or construct facilities, support early stage product development or repurpose properties.

[Read more](#)

## NEWS

[UW Tacoma Chancellor Dr. Sheila Edwards Lange makes Most Influential list](#)  
[Commerce announces first round of securing federal funding initiative grants](#)  
[Pierce County and Japan economic ties run deep](#)  
[Retiring Washington Congress members have been champions for economy](#)  
[Creative economy contributes nearly \\$120B to state GDP](#)

### Team With Us

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