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PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

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## Stronger ties and new connections with Japan: A message from Washington State Secretary of State Steve Hobbs

Technology has made it easy to do business across the globe. But nothing can replace the face-to-face interaction to establish new connections.

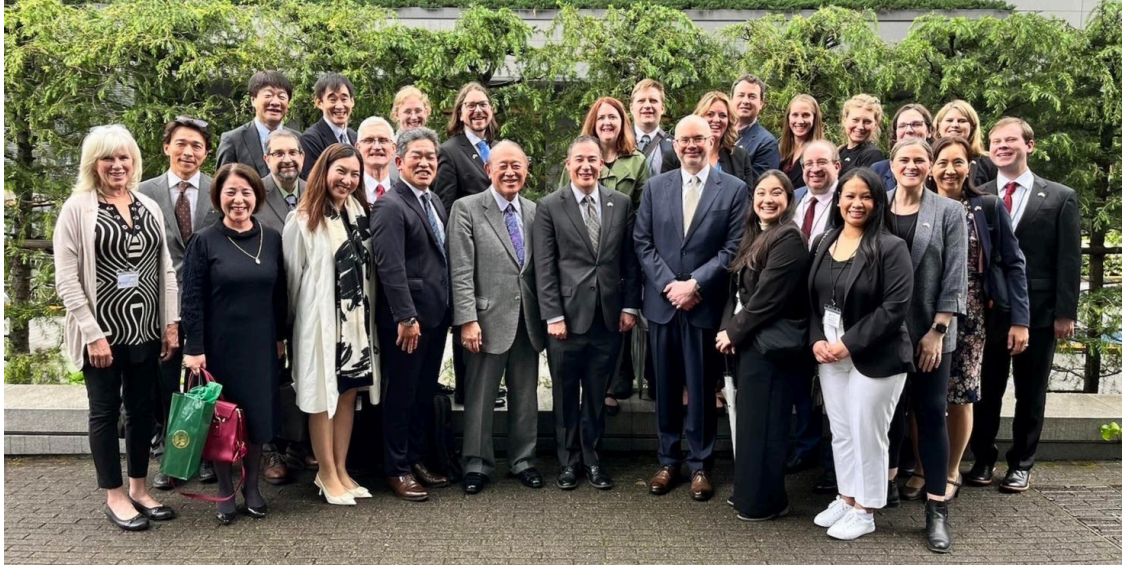
In April, I was privileged to join the EDB and a team of business owners and other state representatives on a trade and cultural mission to Japan that focused on the aerospace and tabletop gaming industries.

This follow-up to our [EDB-led trade mission](#) in October 2023 provided opportunities to solidify our economic partnerships and make new connections that will benefit our communities across the state and nation.

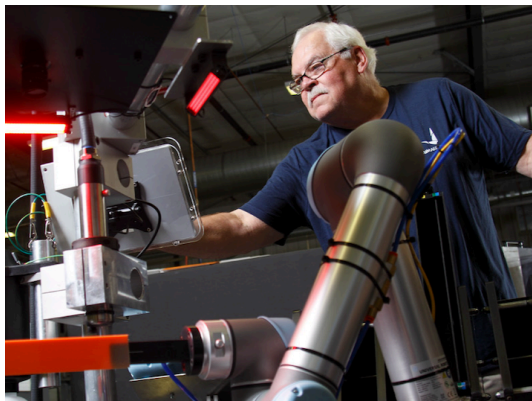
The aerospace industry in Washington is a long-standing partnership between Washington and Japan and continues to be a significant economic driver for both regions. A prime example of this is Sekisui Aerospace, whose expansion in Sumner and Renton will generate hundreds of new jobs in Pierce County and beyond. It was a privilege to personally express our gratitude to Sekisui's leaders for their choice to invest in Washington.

During our trip in April, we were pleased to help develop new international ties with Washington-based tabletop gaming companies [Heart of the Deernicorn](#), [Cherry Picked Games](#), [Flatout Games](#), [Lone Shark Games](#) and [Green Ronin Publishing](#). Washington is home to many tabletop and role-playing gaming companies, including [Wizards of the Coast](#), creators of Dungeons & Dragons. These games are an excellent opportunity for people of all ages and abilities to come together in a role-playing setting to strategize and build relationships.

It is my honor to recognize and celebrate the deep ties and mutual prosperity that businesses in Washington and Japan have developed through the aerospace and tabletop gaming industries. The Office of the Secretary of State and the EDB look forward to more opportunities to leverage state resources and create more connections.



*Washington Secretary of State Steve Hobbs (center) led a recent trade and cultural mission to Japan. EDB VP for Business Recruitment and Expansion Maddie Merton is pictured in the front row on the right.*



### **Sekisui growth marks largest expansion for EDB's BRE program**

The aerospace supplier's most recent expansion added hundreds of positions at their Sumner and Renton facilities.

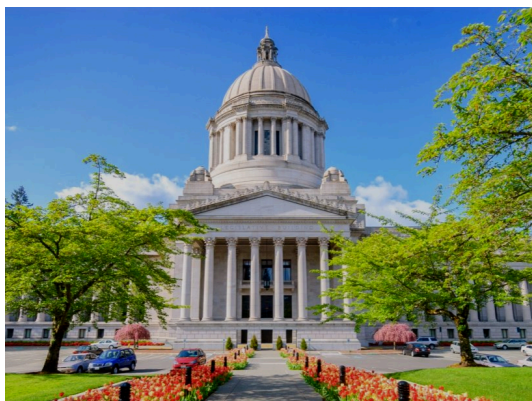
[Read more](#)



### **Attention EDB investors: Join the Investor Briefing June 5**

EDB investors will hear an EDB update and learn more about Tehaleh, Bonney Lake's master-planned community.

[Read more](#)



### **2024 Legislative Session yields economic development wins**



### **Small business grants available through WorkForce Central**

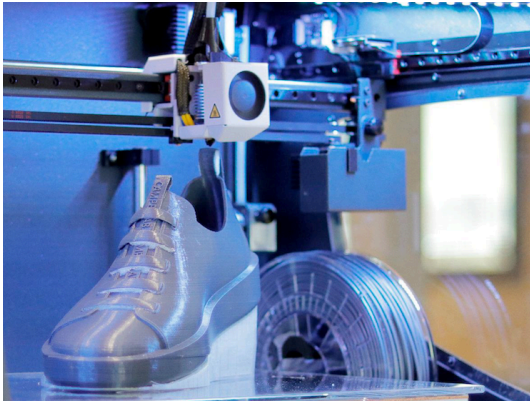
Washington state small businesses based in Pierce County are invited to apply for

Lawmakers tackled big challenges and acted on legislation that will help boost economic development across the state.

grants up to \$15,000.

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)



### Tacoma Manufacturing Incubator lands state grant

Tacoma Manufacturing Incubator was awarded \$200,000 through the state's Evergreen Manufacturing grant option.

[Read more](#)



### Pierce Transit launches first high-capacity line

Stream Community Line offers frequent, rapid and convenient service between Spanaway and Tacoma Dome Station.

[Read more](#)

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Take the Pierce County Workforce Transportation Survey

The survey will help identify the needs of local businesses and community members who depend on reliable and safe transportation to get to work.

[Take the survey](#)

### Comment on the Tacoma Tideflats EIS by May 23

Issuance of the Tacoma Tideflats Subarea Plan and Planned Action Environmental Impact Statement marks the next milestone in the development of the subarea plan.

[Read more](#)

### EDB begins search for new leader

The EDB has retained Waverly Partners to lead the search for a new leader. Bruce Kendall, who has served as EDB president and CEO for more than 25 years, will retire later this year.

[Read more](#)

### Attend the State of Black Tacoma Town Hall May 30

Delve into crucial topics that affect the community and work together to make positive change. The free event is hosted by Tacoma Urban League and will be held at Evergreen State College in Tacoma.

### New ScaleUp Business Training begins June 4

This free nine-week program is designed to help established Washington state businesses increase profitability, build capacity and spur growth.

### Register for the WEDA 2024 Summer Conference in Spokane

The 2024 Washington Economic Development Association Summer Conference is coming to the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane, June 18-20. *Early bird registration ends May 24.*

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)

[Read more](#)



### **Bruce Kendall receives 2024 UW Tacoma SET Community Partner Award**

*As a long-time SET board member and advocate, Kendall was a natural pick for the accolade. The honor was presented April 25 during the UW Tacoma SET annual awards ceremony. Pictured from left: UW Tacoma SET Dean and Professor Rajendra Katti; Kendall; and UW Tacoma SET Director of Industry Partnerships and Lecturer Andrew Fry.*

## **NEWS**

[The Northwest Seaport Alliance launches cargo and service incentive program](#)

[EV maker Rivian leases Fife warehouse](#)

[Puyallup Tribal Enterprises becomes lead investor in Skip Technology](#)

[Port Maritime Center design takes shape](#)

[Western Washington expects 750K visitors for 2025 World Cup](#)

[Tacoma ranks among top 10 U.S. cities for renters](#)

[Aquagga among finalists for GeekWire sustainability award](#)

[Tacoma makes list of top 100 cities for career switch](#)

### **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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