

PIERCE COUNTY
WASHINGTON, USA

edb | **ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
BOARD** TACOMA
PIERCE COUNTY

ONWARD

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

September 2024 | No. 292 | [ChooseTacomaPierce.org](https://www.ChooseTacomaPierce.org)



EDB names Michael Catsi as new CEO and president

The EDB is pleased to announce that Michael Catsi will serve as the new CEO and president of the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County. Catsi, who is currently Economic Development Manager for Tacoma Public Utilities, will come on board Sept. 23.

Catsi's appointment followed a national search to replace Bruce Kendall, who announced his retirement earlier this year after leading the EDB for nearly 26 years. Kendall will remain with the EDB through September to help with the transition.

With an economic development career that spans more than two decades, Catsi brings a wealth of experience and invaluable local knowledge and insight to his new role. Before joining TPU in 2020, he built the bulk of his economic development career in Alaska.

"Michael is a strong advocate of our efforts to build a more diverse and inclusive business environment in Pierce County and is committed to ensuring our region remains a vibrant and welcoming place for businesses of all sizes," EDB Board Chair David Moore Devine said. "His commitment to these values will be instrumental in advancing our mission and we are excited to welcome him to the EDB."

[Read more](#)



Get ready for South Sound Entrepreneurship Week

South Sound Entrepreneurship Week (SSEW) is coming to Tacoma October 21-25, 2024. The 5-day celebration of entrepreneurs and small business offers something for everyone.

[Read more](#)



Pierce County Business Accelerator paves way for small business success

What began as a creative pivot in response to the COVID pandemic and the adverse impacts on underserved communities continues to make a positive impact across Pierce County.

[Read more](#)



WA State Fair is a big economic driver, wicked small business supporter

Events like the Washington State Fair generate nearly \$400 million annually in business revenue and create thousands of jobs. They're also a boon for small businesses.

[Read more](#)



Small Business Fair comes to Puyallup Sept. 21

Billed as “The event that all current and aspiring small business owners should attend,” BizFair is the longest running all government and nonprofit-run small business fair in the state.

[Read more](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Workforce Central reopens small business grants

WorkForce Central reopened its Small Business Grants program Sept. 1

Free ScaleUp training for business owners begins in September

If your business is ready to grow, the Washington State Department of

Community Preparedness for Cyber Incidents Course: Sept. 24-25

The 16-hour course offered by FEMA is designed to prepare organizations and

following a pause to respond to funding requests. The aim of the program is to strengthen relationships with Black, Latine and Native American-owned businesses.

[Read more](#)

Commerce has a deal for you. Three new nine-week sessions of the DOC's ScaleUp advanced business training program begin in September.

[Read more](#)

communities for the next cyber-attack or incident. The free in-person program will be held in Lynnwood, Washington.

[Read more](#)

19th Annual Aerospace Summit on Point Ruston waterfront: Sept 25-26

Join thought-leaders from Washington's aerospace industry to discuss the most pressing issues facing the industry and share solutions with federal and state elected officials.

[Read more](#)

Meet the SBA Office of International Trade Sept. 25

Are you ready to export? The Small Business Administration offers free monthly webinars on export assistance that feature conversations with Washington Export Outreach members.

[Read more](#)

Apply by Oct. 1: Manufacturers Industrial Assessment Centers Implementation Grants

IAC grants are available to small- and medium-sized manufacturers to improve energy and material efficiency, enhance cybersecurity, increase productivity, deploy advanced manufacturing technologies and more.

[Read more](#)



Tacoma honors Bruce Kendall. During the Aug. 20 Tacoma City Council meeting, Tacoma Mayor Victoria Woodards presented a proclamation to EDB CEO Bruce Kendall in recognition of his service and dedication to Tacoma and his impact on the economic development of the city and Pierce County. You can watch a video recording of the meeting [here](#).

SAVE THE DATE

EDB ANNUAL MEETING

02.26.25

GREATER TACOMA CONVENTION & TRADE CENTER
1500 BROADWAY TACOMA, WA 98402
11:30 PM - 1:30 PM
MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

NEWS

[Boeing leases massive warehouse in Milton's Bridge Industrial development](#)

[Washington's clean buildings fellowship selected for \\$7.78M federal grant](#)

[Tacoma business climate survey results released](#)

[Puyallup Tribe launches new construction company](#)

[The NW Seaport Alliance recognized as top-performing port](#)

[Exploring the impact of robotics and AI in the industrial sector](#)

[Progress on Columbia River Treaty good news for Washington](#)

Team With Us

253.383.4726

info@edbtacomapierce.org

ChooseTacomaPierce.org



