

PIERCE COUNTY
WASHINGTON, USA

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DEVELOPMENT
BOARD TACOMA
PIERCE COUNTY

ONWARD

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

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Hitting the Ground Running: My First Six Months at the EDB

My first six months at the EDB have been a whirlwind of exciting challenges, meaningful connections, and impactful advocacy. Transitioning into this role, I quickly immersed myself in the organization's priorities, including drafting the next five-year work plan to set a clear vision for the future. At the same time, I've been deeply engaged in preparing for this year's capital campaign, ensuring we have the resources to drive regional economic growth.

Advocacy has been front and center, with opportunities to make our voice

heard at the state level. I had the privilege of attending the Washington Economic Development Association's "Legislative Day" and the Aerospace Futures Alliance "Aerospace Day", meeting with lawmakers in Olympia to champion our region's economic interests. A major focus has been pushing back against significant proposed cuts to the Associate Development Organization program (the EDB is the ADO for Pierce County), fighting to preserve essential funding for economic development programs across the state.

Beyond policy work, I've had the opportunity to meet a broad network of stakeholders - business leaders, community partners, and elected officials - all committed to strengthening our region's economy. One of the highlights was our successful annual meeting, which brought together key partners to celebrate our achievements and look ahead.

Six months in, I'm energized by the momentum we've built and excited for what's ahead. The foundation is set, the relationships are growing, and the work we're doing is making

EDB 2025 Board Spotlight - Matt McClellan, Member At-Large



Since joining Kidder Mathews, Matt McClellan has facilitated over 3.7 million square feet of sale and lease transactions, and sold/leased over 400 acres of land, with total consideration exceeding \$400 million. He received Kidder Mathews' "Big Hitter" award in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, a coveted recognition given to the company's top annual producers. In 2024 Matt was elected to the Kidder Mathews Executive Board of Directors.

Learn more about Matt by visiting this [link](#).

[Read more about Matt](#)



Earth Month - Business Showcases

April is Earth Month and the EDB is eager to introduce you to some local businesses that are making a difference while making a profit keeping our planet in mind. Read below about **Homeostasis, Wane + Fitch, and The Maritime Blue Incubator**.



City Spotlight - Sumner

Sumner, with a population of 11,200, is a small town that feels like a big one. Unlike other small cities in Western WA that outsource their services, Sumner is a full-service city with their own Police Department, Parks & Recs, streets & roads, water sewer, and cemetery. For a city their size, they are a bit unique.

[Read More](#)

[Read More](#)

NEWS BRIEFS

Grant Funding for Employee Training Programs Deadline Approaching!

Over \$7M in grant funding will be available in 2025-26 to offset your company costs for employee training through the Job Skills Program (JSP) matching grant. The funds are for companies and non-profit organizations who need customized training and development for their new or existing workers and are administered by Clover Park Technical College's Corporate Education department.

[Apply Here](#)

NEWS

[Puyallup Tribe, Northwest Seaport Alliance Partner to Expand Cargo Capacity at Port of Tacoma](#)

[Tacoma Water and Cascade Water Alliance to Connect Systems](#)

[South Sound Counties' Single-Family Home Prices Rise in February from 2024 Levels](#)

Team With Us

253.383.4726

info@edbtacomapierce.org

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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.

950 Pacific Avenue, Suite 410 | Tacoma, Washington 98402 | 253.383.4726

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