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BOARD** TACOMA
PIERCE COUNTY

ONWARD

PIERCE COUNTY MEANS BUSINESS

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Partnership is Central at MultiCare

When Bill Robertson moved to the Pacific Northwest in 2014 to take on the role of CEO of MultiCare Health System he was attracted to the challenge and the opportunity to lead a relevant organization. “What I know now is that this 143-year-old healthcare system has given me the privilege of

working with any array of committed, smart and talented people that do meaningful work,” said Robertson. He added, “I work with a cadre of amazing people doing amazing things.” Under Robertson’s leadership, the organization has grown into the largest community-based, not-for-profit, locally governed health system in Washington.

With more than 38 years in health care leadership, Robertson has lived in a variety of locations, but he said recently that he and his wife both believe the Pacific Northwest is the most beautiful place they have lived in. When a leader like Robertson loves what he does and where he lives, he naturally wants to give back.

Robertson does this through a variety of industry and community organizations and charities. The EDB Tacoma Pierce County is fortunate to have Robertson take on the leadership role of co-chairman of its 2025 Capital Campaign. According to Robertson, “Partnership is rather central to what we do here at MultiCare, so taking on this role was a natural fit. The collaboration of government, business and community to create a better environment that makes society more robust is a truly worthwhile effort.”

Robertson believes that a community that pulls together has better outcomes, so he and his team are profoundly committed to the broader community. “I view myself in a role of service, one that is actively engaged in the community.”



Top Business Leaders to Lead Elevate Tacoma Pierce County Capital Campaign

Every five years, the EDB Tacoma Pierce County reaches out to the community's economic stakeholders to secure the funding for the important work they do in promoting Pierce County and ensuring a vibrant and growing local economy. Through their work, the EDB Tacoma Pierce County creates and retains quality, good-paying jobs by recruiting new businesses to the South Sound and helping existing employers expand and thrive here.

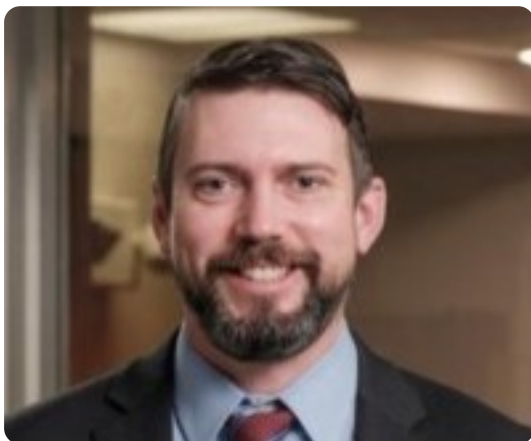
With these goals in mind, the EDB has officially launched the *Elevate Tacoma Pierce County* campaign to fund its new 2026-2030 strategic plan. Three of the community's most respected business leaders have agreed to serve as co-chairs:

- **Bill Robertson** – CEO MultiCare
- **Bett Lucas** – Senior VP SeaPort Sound Terminal
- **Brian Marlow** – WA Market President Key Bank

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EDB Board NEWS

EDB Board Member Spotlight - Eddie Bratko



As President of MultiCare Tacoma General and Allenmore Hospitals, Eddie Bratko is a results-driven executive that oversees clinical quality, financial performance and community engagement for the hospitals by forging strong physician alliances and partnerships throughout the Puget Sound region. In May, Bratko was appointed to the executive committee of the EDB Tacoma Pierce County. Learn about Eddie's commitment to EDB Tacoma Pierce Co.

[Read Eddie's Q & A HERE](#)

EDB Names Three New Board Members

The EDB Tacoma Pierce County is pleased to announce the addition of three new board members. Nominations of Carla Bowman, Deputy Mayor and Council Member of the City of Sumner, Dick Marzano, Port of Tacoma Commissioner, and Dave Morell, community leader were recently approved as board members at large by the EDB's Executive Committee. To learn more about each of these new board members and why they accepted their nominations, click on the links below to their full story.



Carla Bowman

Carla Bowman serves as Deputy Mayor and Councilmember for the City of Sumner, Washington, elected to the City Council for the 2024–2027 term. According to Bowman, “I am representing the City of Sumner on the EDB Tacoma Pierce County Board. I’d like to bring my extensive experience to the EDB while inviting new and innovative businesses to the greater Pierce County area. I have several years of experience in leadership in manufacturing, innovation, supply chain, and logistics.”

[More](#)



Dick Marzano

Dick Marzano is a long-serving Port of Tacoma Commissioner dedicated to creating family-wage jobs and advancing port operations with a focus on sustainability and environmental stewardship. A Tacoma native and lifelong Pierce County resident, Marzano brings more than five decades of firsthand maritime industry experience to his leadership role. He recently retired after a 52-year career as a Tacoma longshore worker, during which he served six years as president of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 23.

[More](#)



Dave Morell

Dave Morell is a lifelong East Pierce County resident, having grown up on Lake Tapps and attended Sumner schools before settling in South Hill, where he has lived for over 40 years. A resolute public servant and community leader, Dave previously served as a state representative for the 25th Legislative District, sitting on the transportation and criminal justice committees. Morell has an extensive civic involvement reputation, so he is a natural fit for the EDB Tacoma Pierce County.

[More](#)





Successful SelectUSA Event

The SelectUSA Investment Summit Spinoff Events connect companies to promising business opportunities in the United States. On May 8th, Tacoma organizations hosted 23 international companies from seven countries: Brazil, Finland, India, Japan, Poland, South Korea, Taiwan, represented by 27 senior executives ready, willing, and able to invest in our region. Participating companies had the opportunity to explore firsthand what new and varied options are available in the S Puget Sound, helping them to make informed business decisions.

[Read More](#)

City Spotlight - Gig Harbor

With a strong connection to its maritime heritage, Gig Harbor is both a city and a bay on Puget Sound. Home to more than 12,000 residents and a healthy tourism industry, the City of Gig Harbor wants to lead the way in livability, environmental stewardship, economic vitality, and municipal services. By identifying six priorities, the city staff have a strategic three-year plan to achieve their goals

Their first priority is to foster a healthy city organization by looking inward at their staff and policies and hiring systems, Learn more about the next five below.

[Read More](#)

NEWS BRIEFS & CALLS TO ACTION

Business Retention & Expansion: California Connections with Niagara Bottling & Mitsui-Soko

Last month, Maddie Merton, Vice President for Business Retention & Expansion at the Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County (EDB), traveled to the Greater Los Angeles region to strengthen relationships with two key companies: [Niagara Bottling](#) and [Mitsui-Soko USA](#).

[Learn More About Maddie's Visit](#)

Impact WA Survey

As part of their commitment to supporting Washington's manufacturing community, Impact Washington is conducting a short survey to better

understand what resources manufacturers need most – from training and workforce support to cybersecurity, operational improvement, and more. The input received will directly shape how they prioritize programs, outreach, and services over the next year.

Take the survey [HERE](#)

2025 SBA Seattle District Director's Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Champion! Suzanne Dale Estey | Washington Economic Development Association (WEDA)

"I first started working with Suzanne during the pandemic, where she was an active leader in setting up weekly COVID Recovery calls for small business stakeholders. She immediately impressed me with her dedication and driving force of making things happen quickly in a time when every minute mattered," SBA Seattle District Melanie Norton said. "Suzanne is a fierce advocate for economic and business development across the state. With impressive communication, she pulls all the pieces together to connect state government, development associations, and key stakeholders together in solidarity to support Washington's business community."

[Read the full story](#)

Outstanding Lender of the Year - Umpqua Bank

Each year during National Small Business Week, the SBA Seattle District recognizes the lender that delivered the highest volume of SBA-backed loans to small businesses across the district. For fiscal year 2024, Umpqua Bank served more than 260 small businesses with \$20 million in funding!

City of Sumner to Host Focus Group – Town Center Plan

The City of Sumner invites you to attend a Focus Group meeting about the 2025 Town Center Plan Update on the "IDEA" overlay in the West Sumner District. With a goal of gathering feedback to help prioritize objectives. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10th from 5-6:30 pm in the Sumner Library at 1115 Fryar Avenue

NEWS

[PSE Joins Markets+ Regional Energy Market](#)

[Washington Trust Bank Names New Commercial Relationship Manager for South Sound](#)

[Tacoma Children's Business Fair to be held on June 14th](#)

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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