



Letter from the President

Friends,

It's truly an honor to be elected by my peers to serve as President of the Board for the Arizona Association for Economic Development. I am excited about the future of AAED. The pandemic is behind us and Arizona has emerged as one of, if not the leading state in economic growth. AAED is moving into its Golden Anniversary, celebrating 50 years of professional economic development services. When you reach such an incredible milestone you must spend time reflecting and thanking the many wonderful men and women who served before you building AAED into what it is today. I want to thank my colleagues, Board Members, and AAED immediate past president, Wendy Bridges, for their service and dedication to AAED. I'm excited to announce our new Executive Director Katie Hurst, has come on board, Katie brings the level of business acumen myself, and the Board of Directors were looking for to move AAED to the next level and provide more value to our membership and sponsors. AAED remains focused on ensuring the strength of Arizona's economy for the next 50 years!

AAED serves as Arizona's unified voice for responsible economic development through professional education, public policy, and collaboration. Our 3-year strategic plan, which was developed this year and serves as a living, fluid document, outlines several values the organization holds close. They are:

1. Innovation in the field of economic development;
2. A diverse and engaged membership;
3. A collaborative ecosystem between the public sector and the private sector;
4. Cooperation, partnership, equity, and diversity;
5. Ethical conduct in economic development practice;
6. Continued professional development.

You can view AAED's 3-year strategic plan [here](#).

Public sector or private sector, our members all have a stake in the success of Arizona's economy. This year we will continue to increase value to our members. We will deliver timely economic development-related content, proactively communicate about issues that affect you and provide you meaningful opportunities to network.

If you are interested in learning more about AAED or economic development in Arizona, please reach out. I've found our membership to be generous with their time and expertise. This type of collaboration is more valuable than ever. I know I speak for my Board colleagues when I say we are eager to hear from you and look forward seeing you at our events and getting to know you.

Sincerely,

Skip Becker

President of the Board of Directors

Arizona Association for Economic Development