Arizona Association for Economic Development

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear AAED Members,

It's been an exciting first several months serving as President of the Arizona Association for Economic Development (AAED), and I'm looking forward to the opportunities ahead for our organization and the economic development profession across Arizona. Our members play an important role in strengthening businesses, creating opportunities, and shaping the future of our communities.

This year marks an important step forward as we begin implementing AAED's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan. Built on our longstanding commitment to educate, advocate, and collaborate, this plan provides a roadmap for expanding our impact across the state. I'm grateful to everyone who contributed their time, ideas, and experience to help shape this vision for AAED's future.

One of my priorities is increasing awareness and understanding of economic development among elected officials and the public. Economic development is about more than attracting new businesses. It includes supporting existing employers, developing a skilled workforce, building strong partnerships, and creating opportunities for long-term community prosperity. By helping elected officials and community members better understand this work, we can strengthen partnerships, encourage informed decisions, and demonstrate the value economic development brings to communities throughout Arizona.

Putting our strategic plan into action will take all of us. AAED's strength comes from the knowledge, experience, and dedication of our members. I encourage you to stay involved, share your expertise, and help us turn our strategic goals into meaningful progress.

Thank you for your continued support of AAED and your dedication to advancing economic development in Arizona. I'm honored to serve as President and look forward to working alongside you to help shape a prosperous future for our state.

Sincerely,

Heath Vescovi-Chiordi
President of the Board of Directors
Arizona Association for Economic Development