

From the Desk of the CEO



Dear CALED Members & Friends,

As I write this update, it saddens me to know that so many of our members, partners, families, and their communities are dealing with the devastation caused by the many wildfires in California. Thanks to those of you who are sharing your programs

and resources to support business recovery and resiliency in these areas. It's heartbreaking to see so many communities impacted by the fires, but also, heartwarming and encouraging to see how economic developers in these areas are making a difference by helping their businesses make it through these difficult times. We wish you all the best as you move forward in your efforts.

Also, I am excited to share with you that CALED is launching our "Following the Mission" campaign as we head towards our 40 year anniversary in 2020. We are inspired by the great work our members do and we want to promote the value of economic development.

"Following the Mission" is about highlighting how and when CALED and our members take action to improve local economic development. It is a campaign spotlighting the things that sometimes unseen, but are crucial in growing local economies and improving quality of life for all residents. It is to remind stakeholders why and how economic development can benefit their community. It is about showing off the things our members do to help businesses thrive in California. Please watch for more information about this in the next few months – we will be asking you to share your successes.

In addition to promoting our members' great work, CALED is engaging even more to help you make a difference. Here are some of the projects we are working on:

- ✦ Economic Development Finance & Real Estate Committee – This committee was created to look at legislative solutions, tools and resources to assist with the technical/transaction-based side of economic development
- ✦ Statewide Revolving Loan Fund – Watch for an announcement this fall on the relaunch of our Statewide Revolving Loan Fund – made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration

- ✦ Partnering to Finance Rural Infrastructure – The U.S. Department of Agriculture: Rural Development has awarded CALED \$125,000 to help rural communities finance infrastructure through the creation of a guidebook and training series, using examples from Del Norte, Colusa, and Mono Counties
- ✦ Economic Development Certification for California – We are almost finished with the creation of an Economic Development Certification for California and will be launching the program in Spring of 2019
- ✦ Rural Economic Development Exchange – The purpose of the Exchange is convening rural economic developers and stakeholders to identify practical solutions and resources to help some of our smallest and sometimes most vulnerable communities with their economic development goals

Our 2019 Annual Conference, entitled Make it Happen, will be a great place to learn more about these programs and more. Watch out for conference registration to go live in September. Until then, we will continue to look for ways to serve our members.

As always, thank you for your membership and support.

Gurbax Sahota

make it happen

SAVE THE DATE

CALED's 39th Annual Training Conference

March 27-29 2019, Anaheim, CA

Mark your calendars, CALED's 39th Annual Conference will be held in Anaheim! Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.