

# From the Desk of the CEO



Dear CALED Members & Friends,

It was great to see so many of you in Monterey for our annual conference! Thank you for taking the time to join us. From attendance, to content, to great award moments, and fun networking opportunities, attendees shared how much they value the conference and

couldn't wait for 2019 in the City of Anaheim.

Additionally, we are actively supporting the Governor's Budget Proposal to extend California Competes and the ask for \$20 million for small business technical assistance.

**A big thank you to our members of legislative action team and our support staff, Alphonse Wilfred, CALED Assistant Program Manager!**

**CALED's Legislative Action Team:**

**Aaron Laurel** – Economic Development & Housing Director, City of West Sacramento, CALED incoming chair, Legislative Action Committee Co-Chair

**Robert Burris** – President & CEO, Solano EDC, Legislative Action Committee Co-Chair

**Matthew Hargrove** – Senior VP of Governmental Affairs, CBPA

**Gurbax Sahota** – President & CEO, CALED

Along with several jurisdictions and consultants, I am still participating in the Redesign Working Group coordinated by California Housing and Community Development Department to improve their Community Development Block Grant program for non-entitlements communities. Our clear focus has been to protect the 30% set-aside for economic development activities and insure the funds get distributed in a way that benefits communities, achieves a national objective, and is sustainable at the state level. If you are in a non-entitlement community, please watch for my emails regarding this to get updates.

Check out page 14 for details on this year's awards of excellence winners and our lifetime achievement award recipient, Michael Nuby.

Spring is a busy time of year for many of our members and for us. Aside from the conference, we also have legislation and other work program priorities keeping us busy. We have a watch list of 60+ bills, but below are some of the key bills we are working on and monitoring this year:

We are also preparing for a busy travel and event season including regional ambassador trainings in Del Norte County, Orange County, and Southern California; our Keys to Successful Economic Development Training in Fresno; a California Economic Development Financing Roundtable in Los Angeles; a Central Sierra Economic Development Summit; two leadership trainings in Calaveras County; and plans for a Rural Economic Development Summer Summit. Please keep an eye out for announcements for these and other events. The CALED team is working hard to support you in your communities. Also, if you have an event you would like our assistance with, please feel free to reach out.

- **Senate Governance & Finance Omnibus Bill** - Includes CALED TIF Committee's recommended EIFD implementation improvements
- **Sponsoring SB 1145 (Leyva)** - Allows EIFDs to fund maintenance costs of financed facilities
- **AB 1743 (O'Donnell)** - Continuation of Career Technical Education funding
- **AB 2596 (Cooley)** - Statewide Economic Development Strategic Plan
- **AB 2462 (Quirk-Silva)** - Small Business Assistance Act
- **AB 1547 (Quirk-Silva)** - Treasurer's Office Organizational Changes

As always, thank you for your membership and support.

Gurbax Sahota