

From the Desk of the CEO



Dear CALED Members and Friends,

It was great to see so many of you at the annual conference in San Diego! It was one of the highest attended conferences we've had in the last ten years. We were also pleased to see an increase in the number of entries for the Awards of

Excellence. You'll see the best of those programs, promotions, and partnerships highlighted in the Journal. We also plan to draw from these and past entries to create a best/next practice economic development guide educate leaders, elected officials, and others on the variety of things economic developers work on to help businesses thrive in their communities. For more information on this guide, please reach out to CALED Program Manager Michelle Stephens.

As I mentioned in my report to the membership at the conference, while we've accomplished a lot over the past twelve months, we are focused on the future. Below are some of the things we are working on for your benefit and to support and promote economic development in California:

What We Are Working on for You

- Presenting an advanced economic development training course in partnership with East Bay EDA on Venture Capital and Assisting Entrepreneurs & Small Businesses
- Working with CDBG non-entitlement communities, partners like the League of California Cities, and the California Housing and Community Development to improve and streamline the process for these communities to get funding for economic development
- Holding three Regional Ambassador Trainings in Riverside/ Inland Empire, East Bay Area, and the Monterey, San Benito, And Santa Cruz Area
- Coordinating our first rural economic development conference to include presentations and discussions on topics unique to California's rural communities
- Identifying potential areas of improvement for EIFD and

- CRIA enabling legislation in order to introduce legislation
- Continuing follow up on an application to present a Community and Economic Development Certification in California in partnership with Fresno State University

CALED will also go through a leadership change this summer. Starting July 1, 2017, we will have a new Executive Committee and four new board members.

2017-2018 Board of Directors

Executive Committee:

- Jason Crawford**, City of Santa Clarita: Chair
- Aaron Laurel**, City of West Sacramento: Incoming Chair
- Kevin Ham**, City of Vista: Immediate Past Chair
- Mather Kearney**, Sacramento Municipal Utility District: Treasurer
- Margaret Silveira**, City of Lakeport: Secretary
- Keith Boggs**, County of Stanislaus: Vice Chair
- Carrie Rogers**, Los Angeles County EDA: Vice Chair

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- Kelly Calhoun**, City of Pleasant Hill
 - Richard Chapman**, Kern EDC
 - Christine Damko**, City of Temecula
 - Tonya Dowse**, Siskiyou County EDC
 - Jessica Gonzales**, City of Lake Forest
 - Stewart Knox**, CA Employment Training Panel
 - Rob Moran**, County of Riverside
 - David L. Spaur**, County of Monterey
 - Larry Vaupel**, City of Redding

We look forward to working with our new leadership team and encourage you to reach out to them or the CALED staff if you have questions, comments, or suggestions about how we can best serve you.

Thank you for your membership and support.

Gurbax Sahota