From the Desk of the CEO

Dear CALED Members and Friends,

Summer was a busy season for us and for many of you; so, let’s jump into some quick highlights:

CALED’s new Executive Committee and Board members were seated on July 1, 2019 and the full Board of Directors met in early August at a retreat to update our priorities and work program to continue to better serve you.

With support from member, Gregg Foster Executive Director, Redwood Region Economic Development Commission, we presented a productive Rural Economic Development Exchange in Eureka – specifically focused on resources for rural communities, with an extended session on preparing and applying for economic development funds available through the Community Development Block Grant program. Gregg worked hard to welcome economic developers from across the state, including coordinating and partnering with the Northern California SBDC network on an amazing joint reception event.

The California Academy for Economic Development and CALED presented our inaugural Advanced Economic Development Institute at Fresno State University. This is the second course required for eligibility to sit for the Accredited California Economic Development certification (ACE). We are grateful to Wells Fargo and the California Enterprise Development Authority (CEDA) for funding the creation of this engaging, high-value training.

We officially kicked off planning for our 2020 Annual Conference, which happens to be CALED’s 40-year anniversary. This year, we will be celebrating 40 years of California’s economic developers “Getting it Done.” We will continue to honor economic development professionals and their impact through our Making an Impact campaign culminating with the celebration of your work at the conference.

The CALED team and leadership join Board Chair Aaron Laurel in thanking past chair Jason Crawford for his service over the last two years.

Advanced Economic Development Institute Inaugural class pictured with partners from Fresno State, Wells Fargo, and CEDA

Save the Date!
March 25-27

With the leadership of CALED Regional Ambassador Amalia Cunningham, AICP, Economic Development Manager, Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, we partnered with the Municipal Managers Association of Northern California to hold a jam-packed Summer Symposium focused on economic development in the City of Danville. The day covered everything from ED101 to incentives, legislation, and how to effectively tell your story. Amalia worked with an awesome team, including Jill Bergman, John Stefanski, Theresa De La Vega, Marisa Cumpian, Kurry Foley and Kesava Washington to coordinate and present this great program.

Thanks to the rural economic developers and stakeholders that participated in an informative and fun Rural Exchange

While working on these efforts, we continue to actively review, analyze and engage in legislative activities to give local economic development a voice at the state level. Please watch for our legislative alerts in
your email inbox for updates on that activity. In the meantime, here are the 2019-2020 CALED Legislative priorities:

1. Legislation focused on the future of Tax Increment Financing.
2. Bills that have significant impact on jurisdictions’ ability to engage in and implement economic development (with a lens of “direct and disproportionate impact on members”).
3. Seek and champion tools and resources for economic development.

If you are interested in working with us to support and further these priorities by serving on our Legislative Action Committee (LAC), please contact CALED or LAC Chair Robert Burris, President & CEO, Solano EDC.

As the CALED team works on these activities and more, we always look for member input and engagement on ways to best serve and represent you. If you would like to learn more about what we are working on or have suggestions you would like to share, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team or our leadership. CALED is your association.

Thank you.

Gurbax Sahota