



# State Economic Development Executives Network (SEDE)

Helping State Economic Development Leaders Thrive

## Executive Summary

### State Economic Development Executives (SEDE) Network Summer Meeting June 24th, 2024

The State Economic Development Executives (SEDE) Network convened for its Summer Networking Meeting on June 24th, 2024, in Washington, D.C. Chaired by Sandra Watson, President/CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority, SEDE gathers economic development leaders from across the United States to discuss critical issues, share insights, and strategize for future economic growth in their respective states.

#### Introduction and Opening Remarks

Sandra Watson and Joan Goldstein, SEDE Chair and Vice-Chair respectively, welcomed participants and expressed gratitude to CREC and The Pew Charitable Trusts for their continued support. The meeting began with introductions from representatives of various states, highlighting the broad representation and diverse economic challenges and opportunities facing the network.

#### Key Discussion Points

The meeting featured robust discussions on several key topics:

- **Industry and Innovation:** Advancements in tech hubs, semiconductor industry growth, and opportunities in clean energy and knowledge-based industries;
- **Political and Organizational Challenges:** Challenges such as political dynamics, fiscal management, and the need for modernized economic development metrics; and
- **Emerging Economic Development Issues:** Critical issues like childcare, workforce housing, and leadership turnover.

#### Extended Hot Topic Discussion

Leaders emphasized the importance of rural areas as emerging locations, particularly in fostering tech hubs. Participants also discussed strategies for navigating political challenges amidst economic transformations. Collaboration and public-private partnerships were underscored as essential for fostering economic resilience and attracting investments.

#### Partner Perspectives

Nathan Ohle from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) outlined IEDC's new strategic plan and the management of EDA's Economic Recovery Corps. He also touched on federal advocacy and collaborations with agencies like HUD and SBA. Discussions also covered workforce development and federal disaster recovery strategies.

#### Workforce and Talent

Presentations by Brad Conrad from Manufacturing USA (NIST/MEP) and Manny Lamarre from the Employment and Training Administration (U.S. Department of Labor) highlighted initiatives to align workforce development with industry needs and enhance educational opportunities in manufacturing and other sectors.



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## **SEDE Topics**

The SEDE business meeting addressed SEDE finances including the long-standing contributions by The Pew Charitable Trusts and CREC. The discussion concluded with consensus among attendees on the importance of fostering innovation, collaboration, and economic planning. Topics for future discussions include evolving metrics for economic development initiatives, federal-state partnerships, and addressing emerging economic challenges. The Steering Committee will finalize the SEDE charter in the coming weeks and plan the upcoming Winter Meeting in Arizona tentatively scheduled for December 9th.