State Economic Development Executives Network (SEDE)

Helping State Economic Development Leaders Thrive

Fall Networking Meeting 2026

October 15 –16, 2026 | Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT)
1600 Broadway, Suite 2500 | Denver, CO 80202

THURSDAY | October 15

TIME	SESSION
8:30 am	**Breakfast and Registration -** Breakfast provided by SEDE.
9:00 am	**Welcome and Introduction** Chair: Sandra Watson, CEO and President, Arizona Commerce Authority Vice-Chair: Clint O'Neal, Executive Director, Arkansas Economic Development Commission Meeting Host: Eve Lieberman, Executive Director, Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade (OEDIT)
9:30 am	**Attendee Introductions and State Issues** Each leader provides a brief introduction (2 – 3 minutes): • Key issues facing their state • One key takeaway they hope to gain from the meeting
10:45 am	**Break and Networking -** Snacks and beverages provided by OEDIT.
11:00 am	**Hot Topics Discussion** State leaders review and discuss selected key issues noted during introductions and in meeting registration that are not addressed in subsequent sessions.
12:00 pm	**Lunch and Networking -** Lunch provided by OEDIT.
1:00 pm	**Group Discussion** From Skepticism to Support: Building Trust in Economic Development • Dorian Stonebarger, Deputy Director, Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development • Sophorn Cheang, Director, Business Oregon
2:15 pm	**Break and Networking -** Snacks and beverages provided by OEDIT.
2:45 pm	**Group Discussion** Data Center Policy: Balancing Growth, Energy, and Community Priorities • Hope Knight, President/CEO, Empire State Development • Sam Rikkers, Deputy Secretary/COO, Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
4:00 pm	**Day 1 Wrap-Up and Open Discussion**
4:30 pm	**Adjourn**
6:00 pm	**Dinner, Drinks, and Networking –** Dinner and drinks provided by SEDE. Tamayo | 1400 Larimer St, Denver

FRIDAY | October 16

TIME	SESSION
8:30 am	**Breakfast -** Breakfast provided by SEDE.
9:00 am	**Review of Day 1**
9:15 am	**Group Discussion (Flexible)** **Option 1:** Continue topics from Thursday **Option 2:** Discuss new topics **Option 3:** Transition Planning: Preparing for a New Administration
10:15 am	**Break and Networking -** Snacks and beverages provided by OEDIT.
10:30 am	**Summary of Discussion Themes** Review topic discussions and any action steps.
11:15 am	**SEDE Network Business Meeting** • Finances • Project updates – SEDE and CREC • Next meeting: Spring 2027 (SelectUSA meeting is Sunday, May 2 – Wednesday, May 5)
12:00 pm	**Lunch and Networking -** Lunch provided by OEDIT.
12:30 pm	**Concluding Comments and Meeting Adjournment**
1:00 pm	**Optional Tour -** Maybell Quantum Industries • Leading quantum infrastructure company building the cryogenic technologies needed by the quantum industry. • Attendees will depart OEDIT offices at 1:00 p.m. and return around 3:00 p.m. • Maybell has no formal dress code, though long pants, sleeved shirts, and closed-toe shoes are encouraged. • Maybell requires visitors to sign an NDA.