

Welcome to our electronic newsletter, which is based on the printed version we mail each month.

****Special Note**** Due to measures in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the April 2020 edition of *Teamwork* is only being distributed electronically. Our print edition will resume when appropriate.



Pierce County is Open for Business!

Get all of the latest business information and resources related to COVID-19 [here](#).

Keep calm and wash your hands...Pierce County is open for business

Businesses are the heart of our community. During this difficult time, we're here to support and help you.

From offering frequent webinars to sharing up-to-date resources and information you need, the [Economic Development Board for Tacoma-Pierce County](#) has joined with the [Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber](#) and its county and city partners to ensure your questions about COVID-19 are answered.

"We know you are all working to keep your businesses running and profitable, and we want to do everything we can to help," said EDB President Bruce Kendall. "Information sharing and models of best practices are key to our collective success. Pierce County is open for business."

The EDB, [Pierce County](#), [Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce](#), [City of Tacoma](#) and others are working together to keep you in the loop and up to date. Visit the EDB's special [COVID-19 resource page](#) for information about:

- **Ongoing business information webinars.** The Chamber of Commerce and EDB are holding a series of regular conference calls to discuss the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation. The calls cover existing and emerging assistance to companies and nonprofits and their employees impacted by COVID-19, and offer ample time to ask questions and get the right answers. To date, hundreds are dialing in for each webinar, which feature rotating leaders, elected officials and experts. Recordings of calls to date are also available.
- **Dependable news resources.** Finding accurate and current information is daunting. We've compiled a list of reliable local, state and national news and information resources.

BRIEFS

It takes a village: UW Tacoma receives coveted designation

Congratulations to the [University of Washington Tacoma](#). Along with UW campuses in Seattle and Bothell, UW Tacoma is among 119 U.S. higher education institutions to receive this year's Carnegie Community Engagement Classification, an elective designation that indicates institutional commitment to community engagement. The classification is awarded following a process of self-study by each institution, which is then assessed by a national review committee.

Assessments identified several collaborations between UW Tacoma and community partners, including [Joint Base Lewis-McChord](#), K-12 partnerships, [Inflobox](#), [Healthcare Careers Academy](#) and the [Greater Tacoma Community Foundation](#).

Read more about the designation on the [UW Tacoma website](#).

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- **Disaster relief for your business.** Federal, state and local assistance is available, and more is in the works. Find out what's out there and how to apply. We'll continue to update and add to the list as things change.

We know you're experiencing massive disruption to your businesses and organizations. We're here to help. We'll get through this, together.

EDB Annual Meeting spans generations

The **EDB Annual Meeting** is always a stellar occasion, and this year's event did not disappoint. Nearly 600 Pierce County business and community leaders came together March 5 at the Greater [Tacoma Convention Center](#) to celebrate high-wage job creation. The group heard updates on the EDB's recruitment and retention work, celebrated this year's **Excellent 10** and **Golden Shovel** award winners, and soaked up an informative and inspirational message that spanned and embraced generations.

EDB Chair Greg Unruh, CEO of [Trouves Health Care Corporation](#), welcomed attendees and thanked them for their ongoing support. "The most important word in economic development is partnership," Unruh said. "No deal gets done and no job is created without it."

The Excellent 10

This year's Excellent 10 are projects selected by the EDB for their positive impact on the Pierce County economy in the previous year. The winners are, in alphabetical order: [Canyon Road Expansion](#) (Frederickson), [Currie & Brown](#) (Tacoma), [Cutting Edge Meats](#) (Lakewood), [InvestPierceCounty.com](#) (multiple), [Lakewood Colonial Plaza](#) (Lakewood), [Metro Parks Tacoma](#) (Tacoma), [Ocean 5](#) (Gig Harbor), [Port of Tacoma Frederickson investment completion](#) (Fredrickson), [TOTE Maritime Alaska headquarters announcement](#) (Tacoma), [Van Lierop Park](#) and [Step by Step Farm](#) (Puyallup).

We're digging McMenamins

The Golden Shovel Award is presented annually to organizations or individuals that have made significant contributions to the economic wellbeing of Tacoma and Pierce County. This year, the 9th annual honor was awarded to a shining downtown Tacoma gem: [McMenamins Elks Temple](#). McMenamins CFO Christopher Longinetti accepted the award, along with architect George Signori from [Ankrom Moisan Architects](#). "This award means a lot to us," Signori said. "We love old buildings, but it's not just about saving them. It's about what they mean and do for our communities."

Talent lives here

Keynote presenter Phil Gwoke, a nationally acclaimed speaker and generational expert, grabbed the room from his first word. Gwoke works with [Bridgeworks](#), which helps organizations recruit, retain and engage each generation of talent. His keynote message drove home how business and organization leaders can foster and encourage the outstanding talent we have here in Tacoma-Pierce County.

"I'm here to offer a solution to any challenge we may be facing

today," Gwoke told the crowd. "That solution is right here in this room. It's each other."

Gwoke broke down the five generations, from Traditionalists (born before 1946) to Gen Zers (born between 1996-2010), all of which were represented in the room. He covered the stark differences in how generations communicated in their formative years—from rotary phones to the capability of getting immediate response via text—and how those methods shaped the way we interact and communicate today. He also explained each generation's distinct attributes and strengths, and offered suggestions on how employers can tune in to those distinctions and bring out the best in employees, regardless of their differences.

"We should look to the strengths in one another because of our differences generationally, politically, religiously— and say, "That might not be the way I do it, but let me learn from you," Gwoke said. "My challenge to all of us is, how much better can we make Tacoma-Pierce County if we truly have compassion together?"

Did you miss it? You can catch the 2020 EDB Annual Meeting on [YouTube](#).

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Teamwork is a service of the EDB, a non-profit corporation focused on recruitment and retention of primary businesses in Tacoma and Pierce County. Telephone: 253-383-4726. Website: edbtacomapierce.org