

Innovation Cluster Accelerator Update

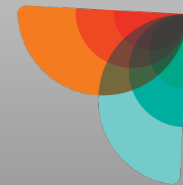
Kitsap Economic Development Alliance
Annual Meeting

Stephanie Scott
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

03/30/2022



Washington State
Department of
Commerce



Innovation Cluster
ACCELERATOR

Why is the state investing in
innovation clusters?



Challenges WA must meet to compete



Attract talent,
capital & high-
value jobs



Upskill our
workforce



Develop new
high growth, high
value industries



Increase exports



Compete in global
race for clean
energy economy

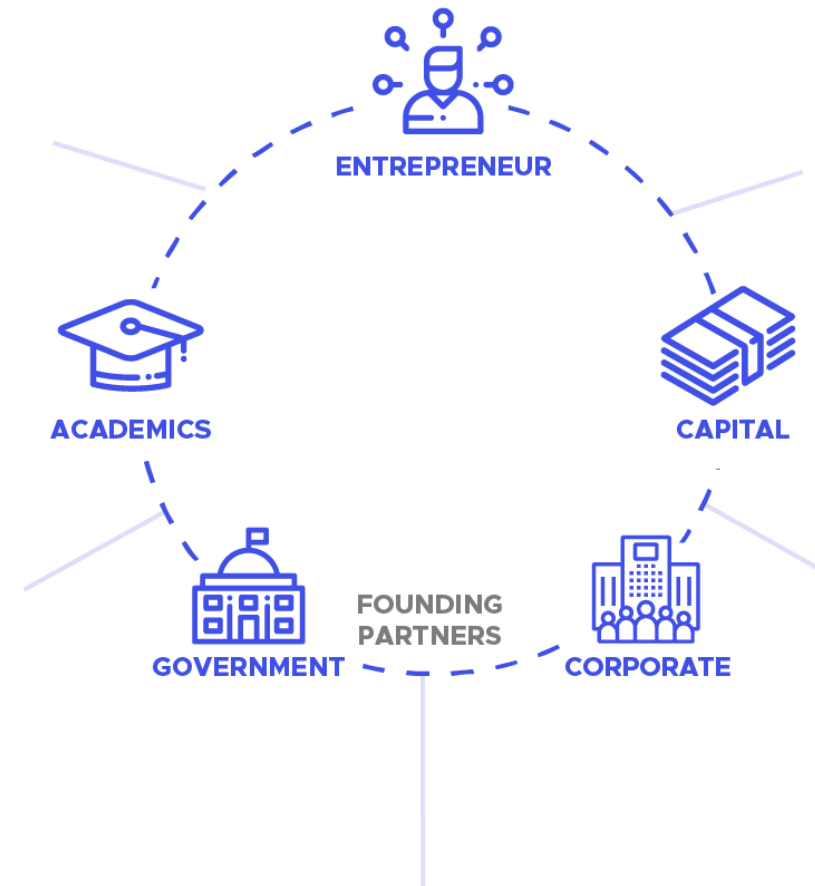
What is an Innovation Cluster?



What is an Innovation Cluster?

A formalized, industry-led, member-based organization working together to:

- Drive innovation
- Overcome barriers
- Access new market opportunities
- Attract talent and capital.



Three Strategies for Innovation Clusters

Grow: Grow and develop our existing industries

Transform: Transform and change our legacy industries

Build: Create entirely new, future-focused industries

What is the Innovation Cluster Accelerator?



What is the Innovation Cluster Accelerator?

The Innovation Cluster Accelerator is a multi-year cluster development program to strengthen industry ecosystems and accelerate economic development.

We will develop, support and scale 9 high-impact Innovation Clusters beginning in 2021 and expand the program over the coming decade.



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Goals



Accelerate economic growth in new high-growth, high-value sectors



Strengthen collaborative innovation clusters



Prepare our companies and entrepreneurs to better compete in emerging market opportunities



Improve global competitiveness



Grow long-term capabilities around high-impact innovation clusters

How We Support Clusters



Funding

Up to \$500,000 to support administrative, operating and market analysis report expenses



Cluster strategy & leadership development

Cluster strategy and leadership development program



Advisory support

Dedicated cluster expert support



Networking

Networking with state and global cluster leaders



Communications & marketing support

Active communications support in selected sectors and international markets

First cohort clusters



Washington Autonomous Vehicle Cluster (WAV-C), led by Kitsap Economic Development Alliance - accelerating the advancement of unpiloted and autonomous vehicles, with an initial focus on the growing need for waterborne craft.



Pacific Northwest Aerospace Cluster (PNWAC), led by [Pacific Northwest Aerospace Alliance](#) – Promote the growth and global competitiveness of the PNW aerospace industry, industry transformation of our aerospace manufacturing sector



Sustainable Aviation Technologies and Energies (SATE), led by Aerospace Futures Alliance – advancing aviation’s global fight against climate change by leading the research, development and deployment of sustainable aviation fuels, electrified aircraft and hydrogen-powered aviation

First round clusters



Washington VERTical, led by the [Port of Benton](#) –accelerating the transition to clean, renewable and non-emitting energy production sources by 2025 through advanced nuclear power technologies.



Carbon Reduction in the Built Environment Cluster, led by [The Clean Tech Alliance](#)—advancing development and adoption of clean technologies in residential buildings; non-residential buildings such as industrial operations, educational facilities, health care centers and community buildings; and engineering construction such as bridges, ports, electricity and road



Consortium for Hydrogen And Renewably Generated E-Fuels (CHARGE), led by [WSU's JCDREAM](#) – transforming Washington into a global hub for clean hydrogen and e-fuel production with the goal to eliminate fossil fuels from heavy-duty transport, aviation, shipping and other economic sectors which are difficult to decarbonize through traditional electrification.

First round clusters



Enterprise Digital Growth Ecosystem (EDGE) Cluster, led by the [5G Open Innovation Lab](#) – using edge computing and 5G to digitally transform agriculture, energy and utilities, healthcare, manufacturing and transportation and logistics.



Advanced Technology Cluster, led by the [Washington Technology Innovation Association](#) – using quantum computing and distributed ledger technologies (blockchain) to grow advanced technologies and maintain Washington’s technology leadership.



Evergreen Bioscience Innovation Cluster, led by Greater Spokane, Inc.– working to make the Intermountain Northwest and Washington State a magnet for companies providing and consuming expert life and health science contract research, development, and manufacturing services of medicines and medical devices by enhancing workforce development and services to pharmaceutical and medical devices companies.

Building the program long-term

- First cohort funded by EDA SafeStart grant through September 30, 2023
- Commerce recently awarded an EDA Planning Grant to support long term program development + early stage, regional, and rural cluster development
- No legislative asks this session - working to get program into statute next session
- **Goal:** Support current cohort long term + add clusters + project funding

Opportunities for partners to engage

Clusters are actively being built – including WAV-C!

- Join as a member
- Explore serving as a board member
- Reach out and share areas of potential overlap/partnership
- Make connections

Partner

- Joint innovation projects
- Projects to solve industry challenges – i.e. workforce, policy, start-up support
- EDA Build Back Better Regional Challenge example – leverage clusters to pursue funding

Q & A





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Thank you!

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