



## Session 1 Summary: Regional Economies

Our first [Stronger Economies Together \(SET\)](#) event brought **75 participants** from throughout the tri-county region to Colville on March 15, 2012. Our discussion for the day included a range of topics as a way to introduce the SET program and provide an overview of the regional economy. Here are some of the highlights:

SET gives us a chance to increase our knowledge and resources but also to strengthen our regional economic development strategy and action plan.

**Mario Villanueva**, USDA-Rural Development Director for Washington State, described some of the projects funded in our area by USDA. **Rob McDaniel**, WSU Extension Community and Economic Development Director shared [20 Clues to Community Survival](#) and **Rob Willford**, Tri County Economic Development District (TEDD) Executive Director discussed the benefit that SET will have as a way to broaden input in the revision of our region’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

Finally, **Tamer Kirac, the new TEDD planner**, gave a presentation on regional economies. Tamer highlighted the importance of community, work and resilience in economic development. In addition to broad principles, participants learned about global and local trends affecting economic development and the opportunities that will arise in our region as a result of these trends.

Participants engaged in an initial discussion of our region and our economic development priorities. The group was then asked to **choose the most important strategy for the region to explore** using an anonymous voting system.

Here were the top six results:

- Business Retention/Expansion (17%)
- Value-added Agriculture Expansion (17%)
- Entrepreneurial Development (15%)
- Tourism/Arts & Culture (13%)
- Infrastructure (11%)
- Business Recruitment (11%)

Then the *real work started*, small groups were asked to evaluate the results, and identifying possible challenges and opportunities for all.

Visit the TEDD website: [teddonline.com/stronger-economies-together](http://teddonline.com/stronger-economies-together) to see all the handouts, work session results, Power Points, list of attendees and the current CEDS.

Next session we will start digging deep into statistics and numbers that reflect our region’s economy and business clusters. Join us for another engaging, effective workshop.

**Who was in the room?**

- Business (25%)
- Private individual (14%)
- Public representative (29%)
- Education (7%)
- Community Leader (25%)

**We asked the group – who’s missing?**  
**This is what they said:**

- Manufacturing
- Business
- Legislators
- Local Government (councils, mayor, etc.)
- Arts and Theaters
- Youth
- Education

**Are you in one of those categories?**  
**We’d love to have you join the effort.**

Contact Krisan LeHew at 690-8400 or [krisan@wsu.edu](mailto:krisan@wsu.edu).