



State of Arizona

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

Office of the Governor
1700 West Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Main Phone: 602-542-4331
Facsimile: 602-542-7601

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CONTACT: Paul Senseman
(602) 542-1342
psenseman@az.gov
Or
David Drennon
(602) 771-1112
david@azcommerce.com

Governor Jan Brewer Establishes New Arizona Commerce Authority - Significant Economic Development Measures on the Horizon

Action Begins Commerce Transition to Quasi-Public Authority

PHOENIX – By Executive Order today, Governor Jan Brewer established the Arizona Commerce Authority, unveiled its board of Arizona C-Level Executives, and committed \$10 million to advance Arizona's economy through its approach to economic development. The move starts the transition of the old Arizona Department of Commerce into the new, quasi-public Arizona Commerce Authority.

"Since becoming Governor, I have assisted in attracting more than 2,500 high-value jobs to Arizona," said Governor Brewer. "With top business leaders committed to advancing our State's economy, we send a message to the world that Arizona is a premier place in which to locate, expand and grow. Today, we take the next step in becoming even more aggressive in attracting new industry and jobs to this State, and focused on helping great Arizona companies thrive."

The private-sector leadership board positions will help Arizona be more responsive to business needs and opportunities. Governor Brewer will serve as chair of the board and will be joined by a prestigious and powerful mix of Arizona's business leaders (listed below), all of whom are committed to securing a more complete global competitiveness strategy to advance Arizona's economy.

"Our State may be at its most serious economic crossroads," said Jerry Colangelo, Board Vice Chair and Partner of JDM Partners and Chairman of USA Basketball. "The dynamic nature of business as a whole, but specifically in terms of the global marketplace, requires all states to be focused and absolutely intentional concerning how serious they want to compete for economic advancement and preservation. This is why I am responding to Governor Brewer's request to serve in leading this Board. Let there be no question, the recommendations and efforts originating from this Board will not be based on political agendas, nice little sound-bites or simply showing up for meetings. I am very, very serious about this and am encouraged

greatly when I look around the table to see so many others I respect and share my passion for change.”

“A year ago we set out to overhaul the Department of Commerce with the philosophy to infuse the collective strengths and passion of the private sector with the powers and possibilities found in the Legislative and Executive branches of our state government; today by means of Governor Brewer’s leadership, we have done that,” said Donald E. Cardon, Director of the Arizona Department of Commerce. “The Arizona Commerce Authority raises the bar in ways unseen in Arizona’s history. I am greatly encouraged to be part of such significant changes. It is now time to compete globally for Arizona’s economic future.”

Governor Brewer’s new economic development authority is being created as a result of studying best practices in economic development undertaken by business leaders around the globe. This new vehicle will coordinate and integrate the efforts of key partners like Science Foundation Arizona, the universities, regional economic development groups, and the member communities of Arizona’s Councils of Governments – all working together to secure success for the State of Arizona.

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