

## The 12 Blessings of EDAWN

Dec 17, 2015

The holiday season is time to reflect on the many blessings we all enjoy. As we look back on the past four years we can certainly acknowledge the blessing of the exciting job growth we are now experiencing. Looking ahead, we can expect several more years of unprecedented growth as the 50 new companies announced over the past two years, like Tesla and Switch, finish their building construction and start to hire thousands of employees.

While EDAWN has been a part of this growth, it is the larger “EDAWN Team” that is responsible for this extraordinary success. It is in appreciation for this incredible support I would like to call out some of our many partners and acknowledge their efforts. They are collectively the reason the Reno-Sparks economy is growing and is more diversified than ever.

1. Elected Officials: Beginning with Governor Sandoval, who has been personally involved with many of the companies attracted to the region, to our legislators, our local Mayors, Commissioners and Council Members who understand and support the economic development strategy and attraction efforts. Their efforts to support economic development and to keep government “business friendly” are a true blessing.
2. Government Executives and Staffs: While our elected officials are key to setting the policies, their staffs execute on those policies. We are blessed with government officials, from the state level on down, who understand customer service and are committed to helping business grow in the region.
3. Partners: EDAWN’s list of partners is quite long, which is why we as a community are so successful. EDAWN’s role is to get companies to look and visit us; once that happens, it is this team of partners that sells our community. In addition to our government and education officials, we have many partners like NV Energy, the RTC, RSCVA, the Airport Authority, The Chamber, other Economic Development Authorities and many others that we lean on for help.
4. Investors: Needless to say, as a non-profit our investors are very important. However, our investors support our economic development plan for the good of the community, as we do not provide direct leads or any guaranteed benefits. That is why they are called “investors” rather than members.
5. EDAWN Board: The EDAWN board, like many boards, is made up of community leaders dedicated to making our community better. Their commitment to grow our economy through quality job creation is the driving force behind this community’s recent economic success.
6. The Entrepreneurial Community: The dramatic improvement of our entrepreneurial ecosystem is driven by many organizations like NCET, the Collective, EO and SummitVMS, to name just a few, coupled with the energy and passion of hundreds of entrepreneurs determined to put Reno-Sparks on the entrepreneurial map.
7. The Education Community: As a community, we are blessed with an improving K-12 system, a rapidly growing tier one University, an incredibly responsive community college system and an internationally recognized research center in DRI. Education is the key to our long term economic success.

8. Our Existing Industry: The companies that make up our economy “now” are more important than the ones we are courting to relocate here. They drive our economy, pay taxes, and provide hundreds of thousands of great jobs in the community. Let’s celebrate them as one of our important blessings.

9. The Arts and Culture Advocates and Agencies: We are truly blessed with an amazing array of arts and culture offerings; so many that we often take them for granted. We have everything from Burning Man art, to the Nevada Museum of Art; from Artown to exceptional world class entertainment hosted by our casinos. Our arts and culture opportunities are endless and special!

10. The Gaming and Visitor Industry: While less than 8 % of our economy, the gaming and visitor industries are certainly a blessing for economic development. Their efforts to attract visitors to our region have helped millions see and feel why Reno-Sparks is such a great place.

11. The Community: Community members who are passionate about our community and believe in what we can become are a true blessing. Even those that are very opinionated, like Sam Dehne, love this region and possess a passion and affection for the region that helps visitors feel inspired and welcomed.

12. EDAWN Staff: Saving the best for last. We are truly blessed by a staff of professionals at EDAWN that believes in the mission and does far more than asked to attract, retain and grow quality jobs. They are the glue that connects our many partners and supporters to help the larger “EDAWN Team” accomplish amazing things. They are my personal blessing.

Happy Holidays!