



**ARIZONA DEPARTMENT
OF COMMERCE**

The center for economic advancement

Donald E. Cardon



Arizona Governor Jan Brewer named Donald E. Cardon as Director of the Arizona Department of Commerce in May 2009. Cardon's experience as an economic developer is vast. He worked in a rural Washington state community attracting international companies engaged in high-tech manufacturing, electronics and energy; he is a former entrepreneur, serving as President and CEO of Cardon Development Group, creating low-income housing tax credit projects throughout the State, and he helped envision and initiate the formation of Phoenix Future, assembling key business, political and financial leaders to create CityScape, a mixed-use development emerging in downtown Phoenix. Cardon is experienced in financial planning, zoning activities, marketing and partnership development.

"Private sector job growth is the most important factor to Arizona's economic recovery," said Governor Brewer. "I am excited to apply the outstanding experience and skills of Mr. Cardon to my Department of Commerce and the critically important task of preserving and winning the best private sector employers for our State."

Cardon competes aggressively. As the Economic Development Director of the rural community of Longview, Washington, his contenders included much larger markets, such as Port of Seattle, Port of Tacoma and the Port of Portland. However, Cardon's approach in 'finding a way' with regard to innovation and entrepreneurial thinking has been nationally recognized. With strong relationships throughout the Arizona business community, Cardon has established a reputation for his visioning abilities and tenacity. Evidence of this persona is found both in the way he successfully attracted international companies such as Toyocom (Mitsubishi, Japan) Avista-STEAG (Essen, Germany) Nitta Gelatin (Osaka, Japan) and Prudential Steel (Calgary, Alberta Canada) while in the Pacific Northwest.

Locally, many, including Jerry Colangelo and Ken Kendrick, acknowledge Cardon as the visionary for CityScape, mentioned above.

"I am encouraged with the vision of the Governor in appointing Don Cardon as the new Director of Commerce," stated Arizona business leader, Jerry Colangelo. "Our state is definitely at a crossroads and our ability and determination to truly compete will not only take a collective resolve, but also an entrepreneurial approach Don has certainly demonstrated."

Cardon recently served as Director of the Arizona Department of Housing, and was a prior Deputy Housing Director at the City of Phoenix, where he oversaw eight housing programs and all housing development activities within the City of Phoenix.

Cardon received his Masters of Public Administration from Lewis and Clark College and performed his undergraduate studies at Point Loma College in San Diego, California. He is a member of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials and a board member of Helping Hands Housing Services.

A longtime resident of the Valley, Cardon is a committed family man and father of three children.