



Sandra Watson

**PRESIDENT & CEO ARIZONA
COMMERCE AUTHORITY**

Sandra Watson brings more than 20 years of economic development leadership experience to Arizona. She and her teams have successfully attracted to Arizona more than

750 companies that have committed to invest nearly \$10 billion in capital and create more than 125,000 quality jobs.

During her tenure with the Arizona Department of Commerce, and now the Arizona Commerce Authority (ACA), Ms. Watson served in positions with increasing responsibilities and results. She has led the Business Attraction, Business Development, Innovation & Technology, Workforce and Marketing divisions. She also served as the Executive Director of the Governor's Council of Innovation & Technology.

Ms. Watson worked tirelessly to implement the new vision for the ACA and its aggressive five-year promoting the state's pro-business, competitive value proposition. She provided

invaluable leadership during the organization's transition from the Department of Commerce into one of the nation's first state-based public-private partnerships focused on economic development. Under her direction, the ACA leads statewide efforts assisting companies to locate, expand and grow – bringing new high-wage jobs and capital investment to Arizona.

Ms. Watson holds an Honors Bachelor of Commerce degree from Laurentian University, and has completed the Global Leadership Certification program at the Thunderbird School of Global Management.