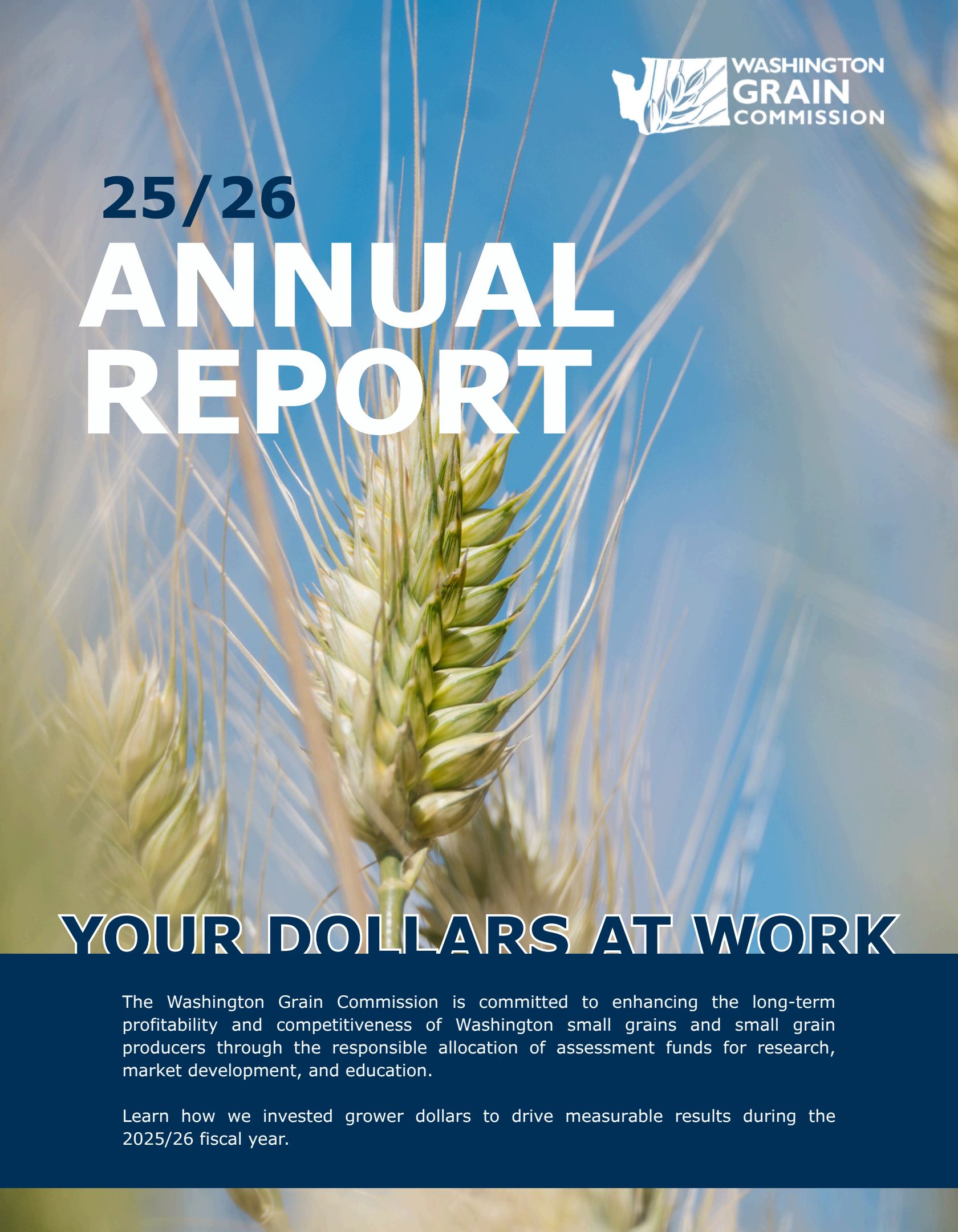


WASHINGTON GRAIN COMMISSION

25/26 ANNUAL REPORT

YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

The Washington Grain Commission is committed to enhancing the long-term profitability and competitiveness of Washington small grains and small grain producers through the responsible allocation of assessment funds for research, market development, and education.

Learn how we invested grower dollars to drive measurable results during the 2025/26 fiscal year.

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



As we reflect on 2025/26, Washington grain growers continue to face significant challenges, with low commodity prices and high input costs putting pressure on farm families. The Washington Grain Commission (WGC) recognizes that every assessment dollar comes directly from growers and remains committed to investing those funds responsibly, transparently, and with a clear purpose.

This year marked the first full year under WGC's refreshed strategic plan, which established measurable goals across market development, research, education, and organizational success. The theme of this report, *Your Dollars at Work*, reflects our commitment to show growers how assessment dollars are invested, leveraged, and turned into results.

As directed by growers, strengthening demand remained a top priority this year. WGC engaged customers from more than 10 countries, explored new and higher-value uses for soft white wheat, advanced opportunities in aquaculture feed markets, and launched a noodle wheat exchange program in Korea. Through support from U.S. Wheat Associates and hosting six inbound trade teams, we continued building relationships that support long-term market growth. We also introduced the Crop and Quality Monitor, which provides customers with timely information and reinforces Washington's reputation as a reliable supplier.

Research remains essential to grower profitability. WGC invested more than $2 million in research projects and expanded grower involvement through a new Research Advisory Subcommittee. We also helped support WSU's successful effort to secure $10 million in additional agricultural research funding, demonstrating how grower assessments can leverage much larger investments.

Through partnerships with researchers, customers, industry organizations, and fellow Pacific Northwest commissions, WGC extends the impact of every assessment dollar. While the economic challenges facing agriculture remain significant, we are committed to staying focused, accountable, and aggressive in creating opportunities for Washington wheat and barley. These are your dollars at work, and we remain committed to earning your trust.

Casey J. Chumrau

Casey J. Chumrau, CEO

COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICTS:

1. **Mike Carstensen**
2. **Ben Barstow**
3. **Brit Ausman**
4. **Ben Adams**
5. **Nicole Berg**
6. **Art Schultheis**
7. **Kevin Klein,** Chair

INDUSTRY REPS:

Ty Jessup, Vice Chair
Tony Benefiet

WSDA:

Scott Steinbacher

STAFF:

Casey Chumrau, CEO

Stephanie Dinning, Director of Operations & Organizational Success

Jessica Pupo, Market Development Specialist

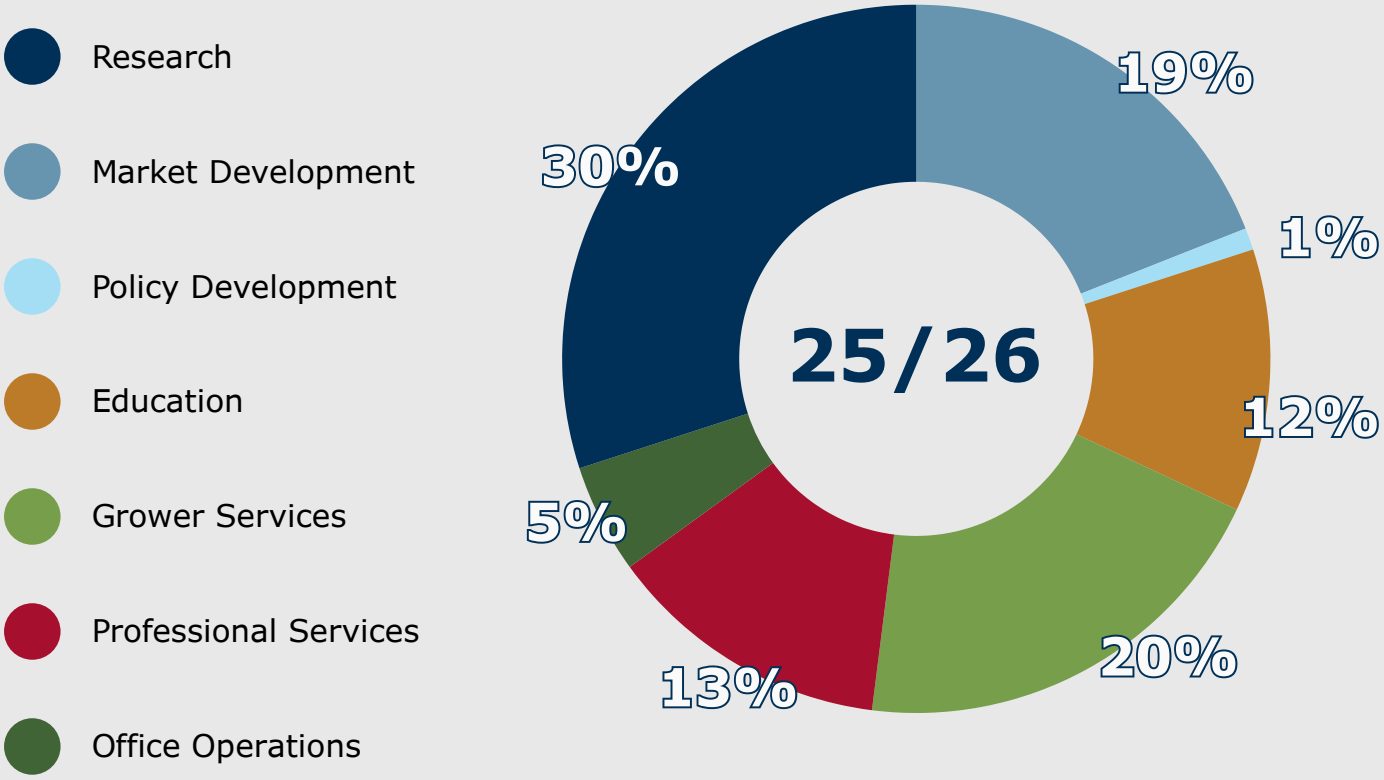
Shari McCarthy, Office & Program Support Specialist

Parker Dawson, Records & Retention Specialist

Bill Davenport, Accounting Clerk

Maddison Dayton, Communications & Content Manager

FINANCIALS



25/26 Summary

Actual Expenditures	Total Revenue	Total Ending Assets
$7,620,741*	**$7,274,271**	**$17.6 M***
91% of budget spent	Wheat: $6,298,403 Barley: $104,670 Other: $871,198	**Asset Allocation:** 26-27 Budget: $8,217,820 General Reserve: $6.4 M Marketing Reserve: $1.5 M WRF Grant Match: $990,258 Unallocated: $491,928

*Unaudited, subject to change

MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Objective: to strengthen and sustain our market position as a Tier-1 global grain supplier, focusing on domestic and international markets.

KEY ACTIVITIES

TRADE TEAMS

6 trade teams to WA

7 countries represented

10 counties visited

Trade teams help strengthen relationships with Washington's international wheat and barley customers by showcasing the dedication of local farmers. This season, visiting teams toured 10 Washington counties, met with farmers, and gained firsthand insight into the production of consistent, high-quality wheat while building customer connections.

MARKET TRIPS

16 marketing & education trips

4 D.C. fly-ins

6 countries visited

With a focus on research, education, and market development, WGC staff travel around the U.S. and the world to understand customer needs and to provide education. Trips provide an opportunity to understand regional challenges, market dynamics, and new areas of research.

END-USE QUALITY

17 Crop & Quality newsletters sent

411 samples collected and tested

5 overseas crop seminars delivered

Quality testing strengthens overseas confidence in PNW wheat and helps identify new customers. Using elevator samples, the USDA Western Wheat Quality Lab (WWQL) and international partners analyze key quality factors, then conduct milling and baking tests to demonstrate how Washington wheat performs in global food production.

SPOTLIGHT:

KOREAN NOODLE EXCHANGE

The Korean Noodle Wheat Exchange is a collaborative program involving the Washington Grain Commission (WGC), U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), USDA/ARS, and Korean milling partners, established to evaluate wheat quality and performance for noodle applications. The program focuses on comparing Washington-grown wheat with the Australian wheat commonly used in the Korean market. Through coordinated sample exchanges and laboratory testing, the project aims to provide technical data on flour quality to help breeders set targets for future wheat lines and ultimately enable Washington Wheat to be competitive in the Korean Noodle Market.

The program is currently in the initial testing and evaluation stage. Korean mills received a sample of SW Butch CL+ wheat in early July and are analyzing its quality characteristics in comparison with Australian Standard White (ASW) wheat, using a Wheat Quality Council-style evaluation.

At the same time, USDA/ARS is expected to test the Australian ASW sample provided by USW/Seoul for noodle applications. Once testing and analysis are completed on both sides, WGC, USW, USDA/ARS, and the Korean partners will review and compare the results and determine appropriate next steps for the program.



TRADE TEAM HIGHLIGHTS



Visiting Wilke Farms with Aaron Esser



Experiencing harvest with the Mead Family

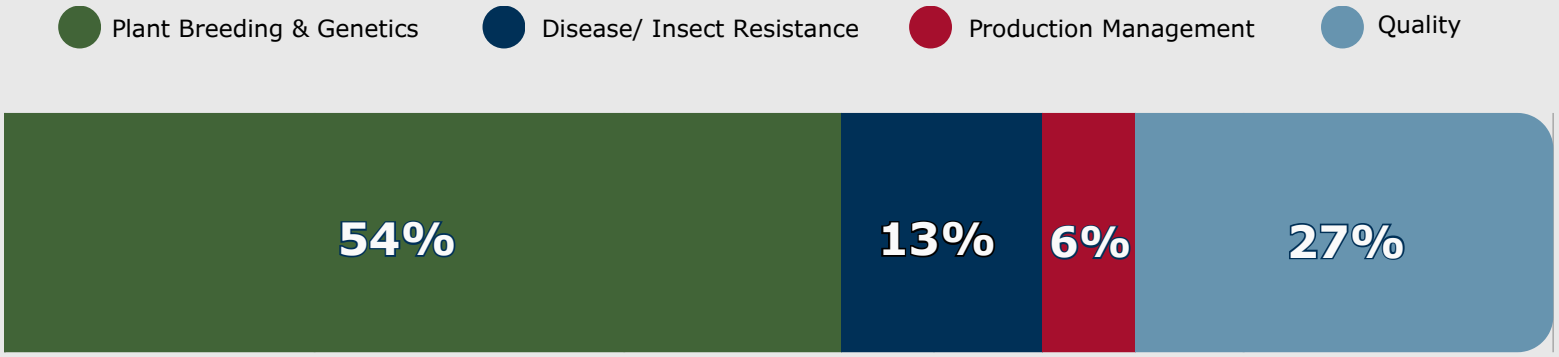


Welcoming our first aquaculture team

RESEARCH

Objective: to drive practical, forward-looking public and private grain research that improves crop performance, boosts production efficiency, and explores new uses for wheat and barley.

25/26 RESEARCH FUNDING



RESEARCH ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE

The Research Advisory Subcommittee (RAS) was established in 2025 through a collaboration between the Washington Grain Commission (WGC) and growers to modernize the way research is evaluated, funded, and prioritized. The committee is made up of growers with a strong understanding of scientific research who help assess project proposals and outcomes. Current members were selected from nominations submitted by WGC, WAWG, county grower associations, and industry partners, with an emphasis on representation from diverse production practices and expanding opportunities for growers who are not currently serving in leadership roles.

RAS is responsible for developing annual research priorities, soliciting and reviewing funding proposals, supporting project leaders throughout the life of funded projects, and providing recommendations to the full WGC Commission.

The committee also reviews project progress, communicates research results to the grain industry, and helps strengthen connections between researchers and growers. Ultimately, the goal of RAS is to ensure research investments address industry needs while developing engaged, knowledgeable grower leaders for the future.

10 new members

6 counties represented

3 meetings held

EDUCATION

Objective: to serve as a reliable source of information for farmers and the public and to educate key audiences on the importance of small grains production, food systems, communities, and economy.

GROWER ENGAGEMENT

13 grower meeting presentations

17 Portland Export Tour Participants

12 Commission Matters newsletters

In January and February 2026, WGC staff members traveled across Washington to provide an update on commission activities and to survey growers about where they want the WGC to invest grower funds.

WHEAT WEEK

10 WA counties participated

20 years of Wheat Week



Wheat Week, funded by the WGC and delivered by Franklin Conservation District, reached 25,097 students during the 25/26 school year. 68.5% of attendees live in Western Washington.

25/26 ONLINE OUTREACH BY THE NUMBERS

411%

increase in social media engagement

427%

increase in social media followers

22d 13h

social media video watch time

ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS

Objective: to build a collaborative team of commissioners and staff who are well-equipped to carry out the Washington Grain Commission's mission and guide the industry toward long-term success.

1 new commissioner

6 community engagement events

15 team & leadership trainings

FROM OUR LEADERSHIP

In 2025/26, the WGC built a dynamic team united by a shared vision. Moving forward with a focus on collaboration, transparency, and growth, our team is fully committed to working together to support the wheat industry. Through targeted development opportunities and team training, we will continue to invest in our commissioners and team to strengthen our skills.

Together, we will create momentum for a stronger, more connected team that will continue to serve the wheat and barley growers in Washington.

Stephanie N. Dinning

Stephanie Dinning,
Director of Operations and Organizational Development

NEW WGC TEAM MEMBERS



Stephanie Dinning

Director of Operations & Organizational Development



Tony Benefiet

Industry Representative



Maddison Dayton

Communications and Content Manager



Jessica Pupo

Market Development Specialist

