

## WDBCCC Celebrates Women Business Owners

In celebration of Women's History Month, we honor Contra Costa County's outstanding women business owners and their positive impacts on our economy.



*Pamela Kan, president of the Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation*

An example of an exceptional business owner is Pamela Kan, president of the [Bishop-Wisecarver Corporation](#). Her Pittsburg-based company, a [WBENC-Certified Women's Business Enterprise](#), designs and manufactures industrial automation solutions for linear and rotary motion. "In a nutshell, we help machines move up and down, back and forth, and around for maximum efficiency and in the harshest environments," she explained. The company's customized solutions are used in dozens of applications around the world.

Kan entered the industry in 1991 and eventually took over the business from her father, legendary inventor and innovator [Bud Wisecarver](#). Among her career influences is her father, even though their interests and expertise diverged wildly. "My dad was very much the engineer with the mechanical mind and I'm much more inclined toward sales and marketing." She also credits industry mentors for advancing her path and advises all business owners—women or men—to secure mentors.

However, Kan says her greatest influences are the people at Bishop-Wisecarver. "I want to grow and scale the company to provide great career paths for my co-workers," she said. "What keeps me motivated is the ability to pay everyone a great salary in this niche industry."

Kan is quick to advise women business owners that her path to success is as a business owner first, woman second. "While I'm extremely proud to own a business in a male-dominated industry, I know that no one is going to hand me business solely because of that," she said. "I have to offer a superior product, superior service and a superior workplace and Bishop-Wisecarver does that."

In addition to leading a business, Kan represents small- and medium-sized manufacturers in numerous state and national organizations, including the California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development and as a board director with the California Manufacturers & Technology Association and National Association of Manufacturers.

Kan is a past WDBCCC board member and encourages business owners to learn more about the organization's [services](#), including:

- Customized recruitment events for companies
- Job posting and access to qualified job seekers
- Space for recruitment events
- Financial assistance and subsidies for on-the-job employee training
- Assistance with identifying tax credits for new hires
- Access to Unemployment Insurance and Disability Insurance information and labor market data through EDD
- Layoff and outplacement services for businesses that are downsizing or closing

"Small- and medium-sized business owners need to take advantage of available resources," Kan said. "We can't do this on our own and need to know that help from organizations like WDBCCC is out there."