



JOIN US FOR

WORLD TRADE DAY: KENTUCKY'S GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT

Trade Without Borders

A premier global convening of business leaders, policymakers, and international partners driving trade, investment, and innovation.



**CONNECT.
COLLABORATE.
GROW.**

Building a stronger
Kentucky through
global partnership.



**AUGUST
25 & 26
2026**



**MARRIOTT
LOUISVILLE EAST**
Louisville, Kentucky

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



GLOBAL LEADERS RECEPTION

An exclusive evening welcoming international dignitaries, business leaders, sponsors, and invited guests to kick off the summit.



INSPIRING KEYNOTES

Hear from visionary global leaders on scaling, innovation, and economic diplomacy.



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EXCHANGE

Pre-schedule 20-minute one-on-one meetings and open networking to build global partnerships.



GLOBAL LEADERS LUNCHEON & MARTHA LAYNE COLLINS GLOBAL AWARDS

Honoring excellence in global business leadership and impact.



PARTNERSHIP & CONNECTIONS FINALE

A dynamic close focused on deals, diplomacy, and investment.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Business Executives & Entrepreneurs
- International Delegations
- Trade & Economic Development Leaders
- Investors & Financial Institutions
- Policy Makers & Government Officials
- Academia & Industry Partners

**BE PART OF
KENTUCKY'S
GLOBAL
MOMENT.**



SCAN TO REGISTER!



EXPAND YOUR NETWORK.
EXPLORE NEW MARKETS.
DRIVE GLOBAL SUCCESS.



BUILD RELATIONSHIPS.
SHARE IDEAS.
CREATE OPPORTUNITIES.



INVEST IN KENTUCKY.
INVEST IN THE FUTURE.
INVEST TOGETHER.

[WTCKY.ORG/WORLDTRADEDAY2026](https://wtcky.org/worldtradeday2026)

WORLD TRADE DAY 2026

KENTUCKY'S GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT



SUMMIT AGENDA

AUGUST 25-26, 2026 | MARRIOTT LOUISVILLE EAST



DAY 1

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2026

6:00PM - 8:00PM

GLOBAL LEADERS RECEPTION

An exclusive evening welcoming international dignitaries, business leaders, sponsors, and invited guests to kick off the summit.

DAY 2

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

MORNING BLOCK

GLOBAL STRATEGY & DIPLOMATIC CORRIDORS

8:00AM - 8:30AM



LEADERS NETWORKING BREAKFAST

Start your morning by connecting with international delegates, government officials, and business leaders.

8:30AM - 8:40AM



EXECUTIVE WELCOME

Opening Remarks from World Trade Center Kentucky leadership.

8:40AM - 9:20AM



OPENING FIRESIDE CHAT: AMERICA'S GLOBAL TRADE STRATEGY

Bill Guidera (Deputy Under Secretary for Innovation and Engagement, ITA, U.S. Department of Commerce)
& **Jim Golsen** (VP, Center for Corporate Diplomacy, Meridian International Center)

9:20AM - 10:00AM



KEYNOTE ADDRESS: NAVIGATING GEOPOLITICAL DYNAMICS & MULTI-LATERAL TRADE PARTNERSHIPS

The Honourable Jean Charest, P.C., K.C. (Former Premier of Québec & Partner Therrien Couture Joli-Cœur (TCJ))

10:00AM - 10:40AM



GLOBAL CORRIDOR PLENARY: ACCESSING CEPA & HIGH-GROWTH MARKETS

Sameer Sortur (Global Ecosystem Architect & Cross-Border Strategist, Square Circle Tech)

10:40AM - 11:45AM



EXTENDED NETWORKING & EXHIBITION BREAK

Coffee Break, Meet Delegates, and Visit Exhibitors

THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS EXCHANGE

9:30AM - 11:30AM



Pre-schedule 20-minute one-on-one meetings

- Countries
- Companies
- Investors
- Trade Organizations

LOCATED
IN ROOM D

WORLD TRADE DAY 2026

KENTUCKY'S GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT



SUMMIT AGENDA

AUGUST 25-26, 2026 | MARRIOTT LOUISVILLE EAST

DAY 2

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2026

MIDDAY BLOCK

REGIONAL IMPACT & EXCELLENCE

- 11:45AM - 1:45PM

GLOBAL LEADERS LUNCHEON & MARTHA LAYNE COLLINS GLOBAL AWARDS

12:00PM KEYNOTE:

"Higher Education as a Key Partner in Regional Economic Development"

Dr. Tod A. Laursen
Chancellor, American University of Sharjah

12:45PM AWARDS:

Honoring regional export companies.

AFTERNOON BLOCK

EXECUTION, RESILIENCE & MARKET MASTERY

- 2:00PM - 2:35PM

EMERGING TECH PLENARY: AI – THE GREAT EQUALIZER

Todd Schmiedeler, CEO, Thumbprint Consulting
- 2:35PM - 3:10PM

GLOBAL KEYNOTE: NAVIGATING VOLATILE MARKETS

Alice Ancona, Chief Operating Officer, World Trade Center Miami
- 3:10PM - 3:45PM

LOGISTICS PLENARY: CTPAT, SUPPLY CHAIN SECURITY & RESILIENCE

Ivana Marie Gonzalez, LCB, CCS, Global Compliance Director, OIA Global

CLOSING BLOCK

CAPITAL, GROWTH & ACTION

- 3:45PM - 4:25PM

AFTERNOON ANCHOR PANEL: FINANCING EXPORTS & GLOBAL EXPANSION

Mona Musa, U.S. Commercial Service
Jonathan Brady, EXIM Bank
Robert Coffey, U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)
Kathy Pleasant, Republic Bank & Trust Company
- 4:25PM - 4:40PM

SUMMIT CLOSING & "BEYOND THE SUMMIT" CALLOUTS

The 4th Annual Dubai Trade Mission
December 5-12, 2026
Take your business global. Join the World Trade Center Kentucky's executive delegation to the UAE to unlock Middle Eastern market entry, connect with key international distributors, and establish cross-border commercial partnerships.

Professional International Trade Certification
September 29-October 1, 2026
Scale your internal global operations. Our accredited, multi-day training programs equip your logistics, compliance, and finance teams with the concrete skills needed to navigate complex global supply chains and trade regulations.

This Global Trade Adventure Podcast
The conversation doesn't end today. Listen to executive insights, global logistics strategy, and cross-border success stories on our official podcast, hosted by trade experts.

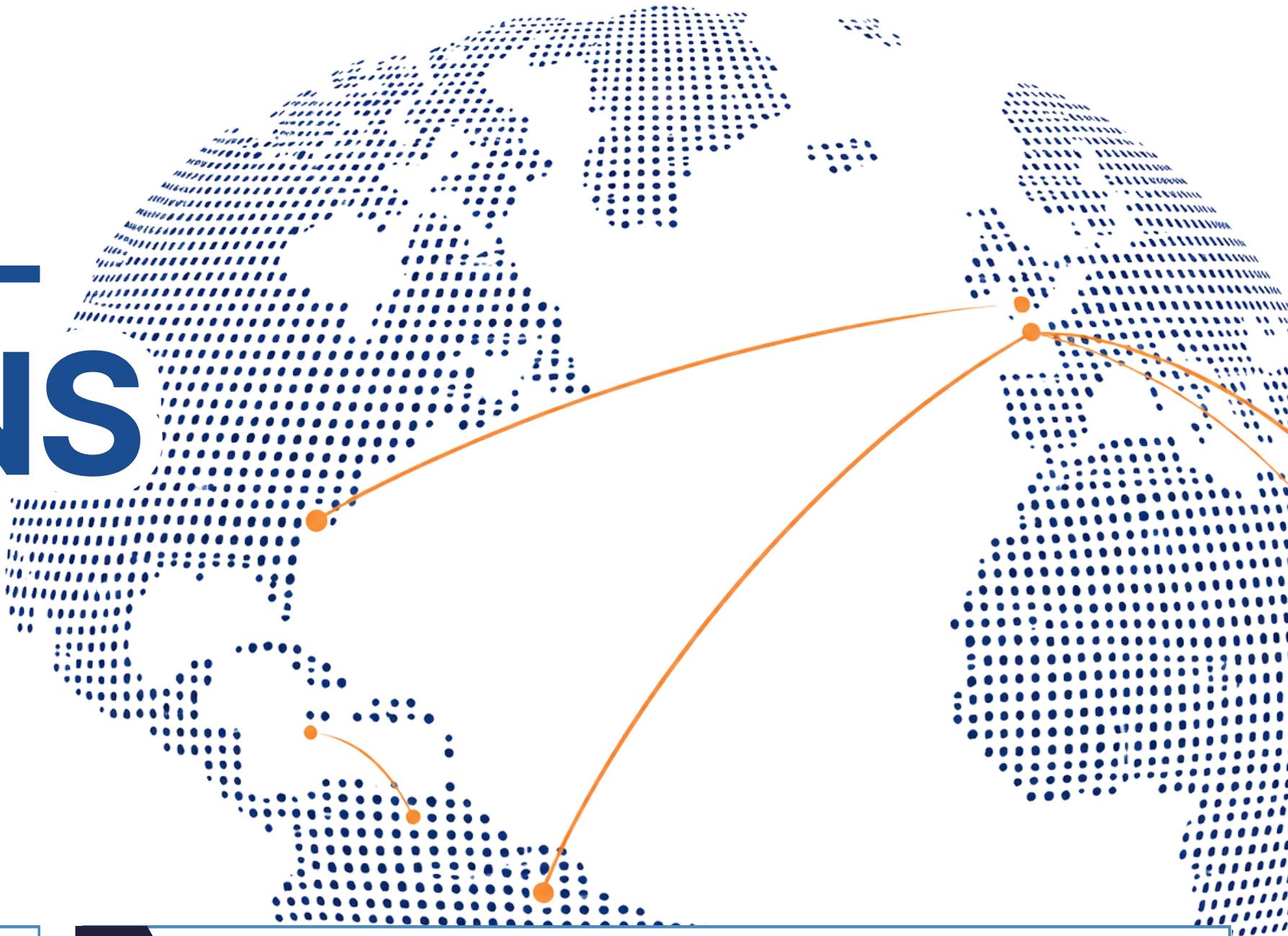
CONNECT. COLLABORATE. GROW.

WORLD TRADE DAY 2026

TRADE WITHOUT BORDERS

INTERNATIONAL DELEGATIONS

World Trade Day 2026 welcomes international diplomatic missions, trade organizations, and global business leaders representing key markets around the world.



CANADA



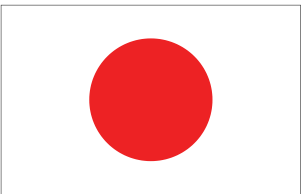
Consulate General of Canada in Detroit

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES



American University of Sharjah

JAPAN



Consulate-General of Japan in Nashville

OMAN



Oman Trade Office

CÔTE D'IVOIRE



Consulate General of Côte d'Ivoire in New York

US-ASEAN



US-ASEAN Business Council

ROMANIA



Honorary Consulate of Romania in Kentucky

ASIA



Asia Chamber of America



MEET OUR EXHIBITORS

Explore organizations supporting international trade, logistics, manufacturing, technology, finance, and economic development throughout Kentucky and beyond.



FINANCE

Stock Yards Bank & Trust
Old National Bank



TECHNOLOGY

Technology Association of Louisville Kentucky (TALK)



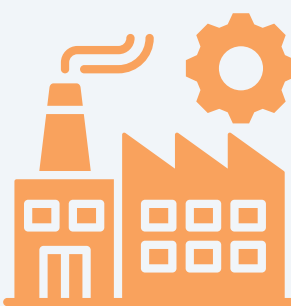
GOVERNMENT

Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development
US Department of Commerce
Office of Congressman Morgan McGarvey



EDUCATION

University of Louisville College of Business
University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business and Economics



MANUFACTURING

Kentucky Manufacturing Extension Partnership



LOGISTICS

Louisville Riverport Authority
OIA Global



SMALL BUSINESS

Kentucky Small Business Development Center



NONPROFIT

World Affairs Council of Kentucky & Southern Indiana
Kentucky District Export Council



MEDIA

This Global Trade Adventure Podcast



TRADE OFFICE

Oman Trade Office

WORLD TRADE DAY 2026

KENTUCKY'S GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT



2026 MARTHA LAYNE COLLINS GLOBAL AWARDS

HONORING EXCELLENCE. DRIVING GLOBAL IMPACT.

Honoring eight innovative companies and one distinguished international business leader for advancing Kentucky's global economy.



2026 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Valvoline Global

Global Headquarters & FDI Leadership

Recognizing excellence in global expansion and trade leadership.



Xena Intelligence

AI & Digital Trade Innovation

Recognizing innovation in AI and digital solutions advancing international trade.



EQL Games

Trade Mission Participant Award

Recognizing creativity, entertainment, and global market impact.



FeltLOOM Inc.

Creative Economy & Cultural Trade

Recognizing innovation in Kentucky's creative economy and cultural trade.



GoodMaps Inc.

Medium Business Excellence

Recognizing exceptional innovation, growth, and international business success.



RSET Inc.

Small Business Export Excellence

Recognizing outstanding export achievement by a growing small business.



New Frontier

Rural Export Excellence

Recognizing export success by a rural Kentucky business in global markets.



Alltech, Inc.

Large Business Excellence

Recognizing outstanding leadership, innovation, and global business excellence.



Special Historical Tribute Jiro Hashimoto

Individual Pillar of Leadership

In recognition of a lifetime dedicated to strengthening the relationship and fostering prosperity between Kentucky and Japan.



WORLD TRADE DAY 2026

KENTUCKY'S GLOBAL BUSINESS SUMMIT



OUR SPEAKERS

The leaders driving the conversations that connect Kentucky to the world.



OPENING FIRESIDE CHAT
America's Global Trade Strategy

8:40 AM - 9:20 AM



Bill Guidera

Deputy Under Secretary for Innovation and Engagement
ITA, U.S. Dept. of Commerce



Jim Golsen

VP, Center for Corporate Diplomacy
Meridian International Center



KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Navigating Geopolitical Dynamics & Multi-Lateral Trade Partnerships

9:20 AM - 10:00 AM



The Honourable Jean Charest, P.C., K.C.

Former Premier of Québec & Partner
Therrien Couture Joli-Cœur (TCJ)



GLOBAL CORRIDOR PLENARY
Accessing CEPA & High-Growth Markets

10:00 AM - 10:40 AM



Sameer Sortur

Global Ecosystem Architect & Cross-Border Strategist
Square Circle Tech



LUNCHEON KEYNOTE
Higher Education as a Key Partner in Regional Economic Development

11:45 AM - 1:45 PM



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Chancellor
American University of Sharjah

Martha Layne Collins Awards

Honoring regional export companies.

12:45 PM



EMERGING TECH PLENARY
AI – The Great Equalizer

2:00 PM - 2:35 PM



Todd Schmiedeler

CEO & President
Thumbprint Consulting



GLOBAL KEYNOTE
Navigating Volatile Markets

2:35 PM - 3:10 PM



Alice Ancona

Chief Operating Officer
World Trade Center Miami



LOGISTICS PLENARY
CTPAT, Supply Chain Security & Resilience

3:10 PM - 3:45 PM



Ivana Marie Gonzalez

Global Compliance Director
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Financing Exports & Global Expansion

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