Wednesday, May 18
Members are encouraged to meet with their Members of Congress

Thursday, May 19

9:00am – 9:15am  Welcome
Shawn Levsen | NADEC Chair
International Sales Manager, UPS

9:15am – 9:30am  Break

9:30am – 10:30am  Room A: Trade Policy Update
Port Crisis in America: Causes, Affects, Solutions
Moderator: John Saylor, Director, International Trade Group at Commonwealth Trading Partners, Inc./ Virginia/DC DEC
Speakers:
Christopher Connor | CEO American Association of Port Authorities
Jay Schuler, Founder of Richland IFC Located in Minnesota and North Dakota, Chairman of the North Dakota DEC
Yevgeniy Epshteyn, MBA, President, Nova Shipping
NVOCC, OFF, IAC

Room B: Export Opportunities & Challenges
Exporting in Web 3.0: Navigate eCommerce, Metaverse, NFT’s, Cryptocurrency, Blockchain & Virtual Reality
Moderator: W.E. DaCruz, Cofounder, VGC Group/ Michigan DEC
Speakers:
Naomi Jordan Cook, Cofounder at VGC Group
Courtney Sanders, Founder at CLS Training International LLC.
Adrian Viller, Online Business Development Director at IBT Online
Mack Hendricks, CEO of FlyBall

10:30am – 10:45am
Break

ROOM A: Latin America Trade Opportunities
Moderator: Alex Sanchez, President and CEO of Florida Bankers Association
Speakers:
Alfonso Quiñonez Lemus, Ambassador of Guatemala to the United States
Max J. Trujillo, President MJT Policy
Romeo Esquivel, VP Commercial Support, CBX Global
Mariano Parlato, Country Manager DISS / Puerto Rico DEC

ROOM B: Exporting in Travel & Tourism, Education
Moderator: Fred Latuperissa, President at ExIm 20/20 Group, LLC/ California Inland Empire DEC
Speakers:
Koka Lakshman, Vice Chairman, EDC Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, San Jacinto, California/ California Inland Empire DEC
Nate Welch, President, Vermillion Chamber/ South Dakota DEC
David Huether, Deputy Director of Research, National Travel and Tourism Office, International Trade Administration, US Department of Commerce
12:00pm – 1:30pm  Lunch with Keynote Speaker
Moderator: David F. Day, Chairman, Global Risk Mitigation Foundation/Hawaii DEC

The Honorable Reta Jo Lewis, Esq.
President and Chair
Export-Import Bank of the United States

A conversation between the new Chair of the EXIM Bank, Reta Jo Lewis, and NADEC’s Trade Policy Chair, David Day, on the Bank’s new policies, broader mission, and enhanced focus on small business.

1:40pm – 2:40pm  Room A: U.K. Open for Business: The Way Forward
Moderator: Urszula Wojciechowska, MBE., Executive Director, Coalition of New England Companies for Trade, Massachusetts DEC

Speakers:
Sarah Clegg, Head of Trade Policy, British Embassy
Tim Crouch, Director of Investment, North America, UK Department for International Trade (DIT)
Emanuel Adam, Chief Policy & Trade Officer, BritishAmerican Business.

Room B: Exporting to India
Moderator: David F. Day, Chairman, Global Risk Mitigation Foundation

Speakers:
Stacey Standley, Formerly, the Managing Director of Sikland-Standley Ent Pvt Ltd. / Nevada DEC
Samir Kapadia, Chief Operating Officer and Principal at the Vogel Group

2:40pm – 2:55pm  Break
2:55pm – 3:55pm  
**Room A: SME Resources for increasing exports- your educational institutional advantage**

Moderator: [Mark Ballam](#), Managing Director at San Diego State University, Center for Advancing Global Business/ San Diego & Imperial DEC

**Topic 1: Understanding the Digital Trade Revolution: New tools for U.S. small businesses**

Speaker: [Simona Racek](#), Getting to Global, San Diego & Imperial DEC

**Topic 2: Utilizing the educational institutional advantage**

Speakers:

*Jonathan Szucs*, General Manager, Advanced Superabrasives, Inc./ Vice-Chair NADEC, North Carolina DEC

*Tom Robinson*, Biz Advisors LLC, North Carolina DEC

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3:55pm – 4:10pm  
**Break**

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4:10pm – 5:10pm  
**Room A: Southbound Trade Initiative**

*Trade-Reshoring and National Security in the Americas*

[Southbound Trade Initiative Program Overview PDF](#)

*Ernesto Pinal*, Managing Director, Export Optimizers/ Idaho DEC

*Cesar Remis*, Minister, Embassy of Mexico to the US

*John Layton*, Minister (Economic), Embassy of Canada to the US
Room B: Financing your Exporting Business
Moderator: Luke Lindberg, Executive Director of Global Strategy, Innovation, and World Clinic, Sanford Health/ South Dakota DEC

Speakers:
Scott Stevenson, Senior Vice President of Trade, Bankers Association for Finance and Trade
Daniel Pische, National Director of Trade and Finance, U.S. Small Business Administration
Aerek Stephens, Head of Regional Export Promotion Program, Export-Import Bank of the United States

5:10pm – 5:35pm Speed Networking

Friday, May 20

9:00am – 9:15am Welcome
Shawn Levensen | NADEC Chair
International Sales Manager, UPS/ Camino Real DEC

9:15am – 10:15am Presentations to DEC of the Year & Executive Secretary of the Year

10:15am – 10:30am Break

10:30am – 11:30am Room A: Exporting to Island Nations
Moderator: Elizabeth Chan, CEO, Global Risk Mitigation Foundation
Speakers:
Ambassador (Ret.) Joseph J. Cella, Immediate past Ambassador to Fiji
Ambassador John Hennesey-Niland – Current U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Palau. Ambassador Hennesey-Niland has had a 30-year career in the U.S. Foreign Service and now leads the U.S. Embassy on the strategic island of Palau.

Luke Lindberg, Executive Director of Global Strategy, Innovation, and World Clinic, Sanford Health/ South Dakota DEC

Elizabeth Chan, CEO, Global Risk Mitigation Foundation

Phillip Mendiola-Long, Co-Founder at The Ohala Foundation, Sherman Consulting/ Hawaii Pacific DEC

Slide presentation

Room B: Cybersecurity & the Global Impact on Trade
Moderator: Scott Blacklin, Principal & CEO, Blacklin Associates, LLC/ Virginia-DC DEC
Speakers:

Dr. Oz Erdem, Past NADEC Chair

Shalon Simmons, Managing Director, Secure Global ICT, LLC

Aaron Amundson, Director of the Information Technology Control Division at the Bureau of Industry and Security

Donald “Mac” McCarthy, Director of Field Operations, Open Source Context

11:30am – 1:00pm Lunch with Keynote Speaker
Former Commerce Deputy Secretary Karen Dunn Kelley

1:00pm – 2:00pm Room A: Supply Chain Opportunities to Increase Your Exports
Moderator: Shawn Levens | NADEC Chair

International Sales Manager, UPS/ Camino Real DEC
Speakers:

Jess Dankert, Vice President of Supply Chain, Retail Industry Leaders Association
Kristopher Denzel, Director of Government Affairs, DHL Express

Gerd Uitdewilligen, Director of International Sales, Emerson Cargo Solutions

Room B: DEC Engagement & Orientation
Slide Presentation

Moderator: Anne Burkett, Executive Director, NAITA/Alabama DEC

Speakers:

Brenda Stelly, President, Oil Center Research International LLC/ Louisiana DEC

Sandy Renner, Chair, FasTrack Global Expansion Solutions, Inc./ Minnesota DEC

Tee Persad, Attorney, Mediator & Business Consultant, CPLS, P.A./ Central-North Florida DEC

2:00pm – 2:15pm Break

2:15pm – 3:15pm Room A: Exporting to Challenging Markets (Middle East)

Moderator: Sheriah Johnson, Trade Compliance Manager, NCR Corporation/ Georgia DEC

Speakers:

Nate LaMar, Senior Manager of International Business Development, GM Defense/ Indiana DEC

Kelly Watkins, President, Expressive Concepts/ Kentucky DEC

Room B: Trade Policy & Global Markets Update

Commerce Department in 2022 & Beyond

Moderator: Scott Blacklin, Principal & CEO, Blacklin Associates, LLC/ Virginia-DC DEC

Speakers:

Dale Tasharski, Deputy Director General for Global Markets | International Trade Administration | U.S. Department of Commerce. Former Acting Head of the US Commercial Service in the last Administration
Carmine D’Aloisio - President Daloisio Global LLC, NADEC Board of Advisors. Former senior commercial officer for the U.S. Commercial Service.

Trevor Gunn, Founder & Chair of USA Healthcare Alliance, Vice President of International Relations, Medtronic

3:15pm – 3:30pm Break

3:30pm – 4:30pm Using the DEC to Reach Underserved Communities
Moderator: Fred Latuperissa, President at Exlm 20/20 Group, LLC/ California Inland Empire DEC
Speakers:
Koka Lakshman, Vice Chairman, Soboba Band of Luiseno Indians, Economic Development Board, CEO, SJ Medical Group/ California Inland Empire DEC Treasurer
Slide Presentation
Basil Ajuo, President, Minnesota Africans United/Minnesota DEC
Kimberly Benson, President and CEO, Zenaida Global, UAS Administrator, San Bernardino International Airport
Heather Andrea Ranck, Director/Global Rural Team Leader, U.S. Commercial Service, U.S. Department of Commerce/ITA

4:30pm – 4:45pm Break

4:45pm – 5:10pm Small Business Success Story

5:10pm – 5:30pm CLOSING REMARKS