



2026 NADEC Annual Export Conference

Global Trade in Transition

May 12-13, 2026, Gaylord Opryland Hotel & Conference Center
Nashville, Tennessee

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

7:30 am Registration & Continental Networking Breakfast

8:00 am – 9:15 am Welcome

Opening Plenary Session – America First Trade

The Honorable David Fogel, Assistant Secretary of Commerce & Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service (Invited)

9:15 am – 12:00 pm **Morning Plenary and Panel Discussions:**

- U.S. Trade Agenda and Small Business - **Dr. Christina Sevilla**, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative, the **Honorable Bradley McKinney**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Commercial Service, **Associate Administrator Lisa Shimkat**, U.S. Field Operations, U.S. Small Business Administration, **Richard Grana**, Kentucky DEC, moderator
- The Development and Integration of Ag Technology - What Does This Mean for U.S. Competitiveness in Global Markets – A dynamic discussion with **The Honorable Luke J. Lindberg**, Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture (Invited) and key Agriculture Industry Leaders
- Networking Break
- Global Economic & Exports Outlook – **Dr. Mark Wynne**, Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank, Dallas
- Global Market Roundtables – APAC – Americas - EMEA

12:00 pm – 1:15 pm **Luncheon Keynote – “AI and the New Architecture of Global Trade”**
Ben Stiling, Senior Director, Customs and Trade, OpenAI

1:30 pm- 3:30 pm **Afternoon Concurrent Panel Discussions:**

- Export Regulations and Compliance
- USMCA Update
- Industry Spotlight: Automotive
- Industry Spotlight: AI and Exports
- Tariffs, Courts, and Congress: New Legal Landscape for U.S. Exporters
- Show Me the Money

3:30 pm- 4:15 pm **Afternoon Plenary**

- Geopolitical Uncertainty – Navigating a Path Forward

4:15 pm – 4:45 pm **Awards Presentations:**

- DEC of the Year & Executive Secretary of the Year

6:00 pm – 7:30 pm ***Taste of Tennessee Welcome Reception at Southern Collective featuring Tennessee BBQ, Whiskey and the opportunity for a Whiskey Barrel Tasting***
(Round-trip Transportation from the Gaylord Opryland Hotel will be provided by the TN DECs)

Wednesday, May 13, 2026

8:00 am Registration & Continental Networking Breakfast

8:30 am – 11:30 am **Export Development Collaboration**

- American AI Exports Program & Strategic Exports of American Made – New Focus areas of the U.S. Department of Commerce – **The Honorable Brandon Remington**, Deputy Under Secretary for Policy, International Trade Administration (invited) and **the Honorable Bradley McKinney**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Commercial Service

- The New Export Playbook – **Dr. John Pournoor**, Chair, NADEC Trade Policy & Legislative Outreach Committee
- Trade DNA Cup – National University Engagement for DECs

11:30 am – 1:30 pm Luncheon “Ted Talk!”

- **The Digital Delta AI & Exports Initiative – Ted Townsend**, President & CEO, Greater Memphis Chamber
- **From Whiskey & Rye to High Tech and AI** – an Interactive Discussion with key stakeholders from the University of Tennessee on meeting the needs of the global business community and from Oakridge National Laboratories focusing on Energy, Quantum Computing & Advanced Manufacturing

2:00 pm **Taste of Tennessee** continues offsite - **Global Entertainment & Destination Marketing** – the **Global Impact of Travel & Tourism** (*Round-trip Transportation from the Gaylord Opryland Hotel will be provided by the TN DECs*)

6:00 pm **Taste of Tennessee Rooftop Crawl on the Honky Tonk Highway** – A Curated Broadway Evening to select Honky Tonks to include Line Dancing Lessons and premier Rooftop Bar Experiences while enjoying the spectacular views of the Music City!
(*Transportation from the Gaylord Opryland Hotel to Broadway will be provided by the TN DECs. Participants will be responsible for transportation back to the hotel.*)

Be sure to extend your stay until Thursday, May 14 so you get the full **Taste of Tennessee!**

2026 NADEC Annual Export Conference –

<https://www.usaexporter.org/nadec-annual-export-conference/>

(*CGBP Credits Available)

REGISTER TODAY!

<https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/ebgggum>

Early Bird registration price of \$349 is available until March 31, 2026.

Registration increases to \$399 on April 1, 2026.

BECOME A SPONSOR!

<https://www.usaexporter.org/export-conference-sponsorships/>

Market your company to this target audience!

Corporate and local DEC opportunities are available.

Sponsorships at/over \$2500 will have the option to have an exhibit table on May 12.

*A limited number of exhibit tables for May 12 are available for \$1500.

- Includes one registration

- Does not include sponsorship recognition

- Contact Steve Olson, steve.olson@oldnational.com, directly to reserve a table.

BOOK YOUR HOTEL ROOM!

The NADEC Room Block at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel is full. Following are other options:

[Book your group rate for NADEC 2026 Annual Meeting, Inn at Opryland Hotel: May 11-14, 2026](#)

Here’s a link to the [webpage with a list of nearby hotels](#).

JOIN NADEC for a curated **TASTE OF TENNESSEE!** Enjoy Tennessee BBQ, Whiskey, Country Music and Line Dancing, international sports and entertainment, and spectacular views of the Music City!

NADEC expresses great appreciation to the

Tennessee District Export Council and the West Tennessee District Export Council

for bringing all our attendees a **TASTE OF TENNESSEE!**

#NADEC2026