



2026 NADEC Annual Export Conference

Global Trade in Transition

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



In partnership with the Tennessee
DEC and the West Tennessee DEC



Tuesday, May 12, 2026

- 7:30 am** Registration & Continental Networking Breakfast – Magnolia Mezzanine 9-10 Foyer
- 8:00 am** Welcome – [Anne Burkett](#), NADEC Chair
Welcome Video to Tennessee – [Governor Bill Lee](#)
Welcome from the Tennessee DEC – [Paul Bonovich](#), Chair, Tennessee DEC
- 8:20 am** *Opening Plenary Session – America First Trade*
The [Honorable David Fogel](#), Assistant Secretary for Global Markets & Director General of the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service
- 8:45 am** *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
 - [Miguel Peñaloza](#), Finance Manager, Office of Manufacturing and Trade, U.S. Small Business Administration
 - [Richard Grana](#), President, Impex-EMC Company & Kentucky DEC – *Moderator*
- 9:30 am** *U.S Trade Agenda and Agriculture*
[The Honorable Luke J. Lindberg](#), Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, U.S. Department of Agriculture
- 9:45 am** *U.S. Agriculture: How Uncertainties and Opportunities are Shaping the Industry Locally and Globally*
- [Dr. Will Snell](#), Extension Professor, Macro Farm Economy, Ag Policy, and Trade and Co-Director for the Kentucky Agriculture Leadership Program, University of Kentucky

- [Caleb Ragland](#), Kentucky Farmer and President of the American Soybean Association (2025)
- [Quint Pottinger](#), Owner and operator of Affinity Farms in New Haven, Kentucky
- [Dr. Andrew Muhammad](#), Professor and Blasingame Chair of Excellence in Agriculture Policy, University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics - *Moderator*

10:30 am **Networking Break**

10:45 am **Global Economic & Exports Outlook** – [Dr. Mark Wynne](#), Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank, Dallas

11:15 am **Global Market Roundtables:** Global Markets will be organized in three geographical regions: The Americas, Asia Pacific (APAC) and Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA).

Located in: Magnolia Mezzanine 11-12	ASIA PACIFIC (APAC)	
	Bill Edwards of the Southern California DEC	China
	Marisela Caraballo DiRuggiero of the Southern California DEC	Southeast Asia
	Dr. Sarita Jackson of the Southern California DEC	Australia-New Zealand & Japan
	Europe, Middle East & Africa (EMEA)	
	Nate LaMar of the Indiana DEC	Europe
	Omar Ayyash of the Kentucky DEC	Middle East
Toyin Umesiri of the Illinois DEC	Africa	

Located in: Magnolia Mezzanine 2-4	THE AMERICAS	
	Richard Grana of the Kentucky DEC	Chile & Peru
	Andrés Proaño, a Louisiana DEC Affiliate	Colombia & Ecuador
	Mariano Parlato of the Puerto Rico DEC	Puerto Rico & Caribbean
	Peter Jones of the Tennessee DEC	Venezuela & Central Asia

11:15 am **DEC Engagement & First-Timers Roundtable** (move to Magnolia Mezzanine 2-4)

- [Urszula Wojciechowska](#), NADEC DEC Liaison and Chair of Massachusetts DEC - *Facilitator*

12:00 pm **Luncheon Keynote – “AI and the New Architecture of Global Trade”**

- [Ben Stiling](#), Senior Director, Customs and Trade, OpenAI

1:15 pm **Awards Presentations**

- DEC of the Year
- Executive Secretary of the Year

1:40 pm – 2:25 pm **From Hype to Impact: How and Why Trade Leaders Are Applying AI Today**

- [Justin Seibert](#), President, Direct Online Marketing
- [Leslie Levy August](#), Chief Marketing Officer, KYG Trade
- [Torian Richardson](#), CEO, DBR77
- [Sandi Vazeen](#), Sr. Vice President International Treasury & Trade Advisor, PNC Bank - *Moderator*

2:30 pm- 3:55 pm Afternoon Concurrent Panel Discussions:

Track A – Magnolia Mezzanine 9-10	Trade B – Magnolia Mezzanine 11-12
<p>2:30 pm <i>USMCA Update</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Ray Bowman, Director, Economic Development Collaborative SBDC • Bill Edwards, Chief International Officer, Edwards Global Services, Inc. • Dr. John Pournoor, CEO, Government Analytica LLC • Dr. Christina Sevilla, Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative • Tom Dustman, International Sales Director, Sunnen Products Company & NADEC Vice Chair - <i>Moderator</i> 	<p>2:30 pm <i>Export Regulations and Compliance Update</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alan Black, Regulatory Affairs Leader, Valvoline • Amit Chhabra, Partner, Sandler, Travis & Rosenberg • Cortney Morgan, Partner, Husch Blackwell • Alan Enslin, Partner, Womble Bond Dickinson - <i>Moderator</i>
<p>3:15 pm <i>Show Me the Money!</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Clement, SVP International Financing, Rosenthal Capital Group • Hector Escobar, Sr. Vice President, International Trade & Treasury Advisor, PNC Bank • Aerek Stephens, Director, Export-Import Bank of the United States • Steve Olson, Sr. Vice President, Old National Bank - <i>Moderator</i> 	<p>3:15 pm <i>Tariffs and the New Landscape for U.S. Exporters</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mike Burrows, CEO, SBD International Airport • Tom Dustman, International Sales Director, Sunnen Products Company • Justin Sherlock, CEO, Caspian • Fred Latuperissa, President/CEO, ExIm20/20 Group, LLC - <i>Moderator</i>

4:00 pm- 4:45 pm Afternoon Plenary - Magnolia Mezzanine 9-10

➤ ***Geopolitical Uncertainty – Navigating a Path Forward***

- [David Day](#), Chairman & Founder, Global Risk Mitigation Foundation
- [Elizabeth Chan](#), CEO, Global Risk Mitigation Foundation
- [Jonathan Szucs](#), General Manager, Advanced Superabrasives, Inc.
- [Dan Ujzco](#), Associate General Counsel, Cenovus Energy

4:45 pm Conference Day 1 Wrap-Up

- [Tom Dustman](#), NADEC Vice Chair and 2026 Conference Chair

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* (Pre-registration required for Whiskey Tasting)
(Round-trip Transportation from the Gaylord Opryland Hotel will be provided by the TN DEC's; Buses depart at 5:30 pm from the Magnolia Portico.)

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 Export Development Collaboration

7:30 am Continental Networking Breakfast - Magnolia Mezzanine 9-10 Foyer

8:00 am Welcome by [Tom Dustman](#), NADEC Vice Chair and 2026 Conference Chair

- 8:15 am** **Opening Plenary**
[Kevin Taheri](#), Senior Vice President of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs,
 Export-Import Bank of the United States
- 8:45 am** **Strategic Exports of American Made – New Focus areas of the U.S. Department of Commerce**
- [The Honorable Bradley McKinney](#), Deputy Assistant Secretary, U.S. Commercial Service
- 9:30 am** **The New Export Playbook**
- [Dr. John Pournoor](#), Chair - NADEC Trade Policy & Legislative Outreach Committee & CEO, Government Analytica LLC
- 10:15 am** **Networking Break**
- 10:45 am** **Trade DNA Cup** – National University Engagement for DECs
- [Jim Anderson](#), NADEC Board Member & North Texas DEC Chair
- 11:00 am – 1:00 pm** **Luncheon “Ted Talk!”**
- **The Digital Delta AI & Exports Initiative** – [Troy Parkes](#), Senior Vice President of Global Business Development with the 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 Oak Ridge National Laboratories focusing on Energy, Quantum Computing & Advanced Manufacturing
 - [Dr. Ozlem Kilic](#), Vice Provost and Founding Dean, College of Emerging and Collaborative Studies, University of Tennessee
 - [Mike Magill](#), President, Oak Ridge Corridor Development Corporation
 - [Louis Buck](#), SVP of Public Affairs, 3 Rivers Energy Partners
- 2:00 pm** **Taste of Tennessee** continues offsite – **Global Music and Entertainment**
- [Clay Bradley](#), Vice President of Creative, Broadcast Music, Inc. (BMI)
 - [Meredith Goucher](#), Director of International Relations and Development, Country Music Association (CMA)
 - [Mario Monterosso](#), singer, songwriter, and performer
(Round-trip Transportation from the Gaylord Opryland Hotel will be provided by the TN DECs. Buses depart at 1:30 pm from the Magnolia Portico.)
- 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.)

#NADEC2026