

MID-AMERICA TRADE SUMMIT

AGENDA

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 - 9:00 a.m.-Noon and 1:30-4:00 p.m.

- 8:45 a.m. **Informal Networking Opportunity**
- 9:00 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- 9:15-10:00 a.m. **Session 1: Supply Chain Resilience** - In today's world of constant change – whether it be global disruptions, tariffs, rising costs, or logistics challenges – building stronger, more agile supply chains is critical. This session will explore practical strategies to help businesses stay resilient and competitive.
- Moderator:** Aldis Jakubovskis, Assoc. Professor – Supply Chain Management, Trulaske College of Business, University of Missouri
- Panel Members:**
- Gino Serra, Board Chair, Greater Kansas City Foreign Trade Zone
 - Tina Roth, Senior Associate Director, Distribution and Inventory Control – Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health USA Inc.
 - Jay Devers, President & Managing Partner, Bestway International
- 10:00-10:15 a.m. **Trade Resource Highlights**
- 10:15-11:00 a.m. **Session 2: Business Opportunities In Africa** – Africa is brimming with innovation and investment potential, from infrastructure and Agri-value chains to tech innovation and energy. This session unpacks what exporters from Mid-America need to know from navigating new trade corridors to connecting with the right partners.
- Moderator:** Tim Nowak, Executive Director, World Trade Center St. Louis
- Panel Members:**
- Mike Strobe, President, MSSC, LLC
 - Kemi Arosanyin, Center Director, Center for International Trade & Director, Trade Development (Africa & Caribbean), World Trade Center Miami
 - Ike Nwabuonwu, Chairman & CEO, Alpha Energy and Electric, Inc.
- 11:00 a.m.-Noon **Keynote Presentation: Into Uncharted Territory** - Companies big and small need to keep up with the sweeping changes transforming the global—and the U.S.—economy. Erik Peterson, who works at the intersection of business and policy as a senior partner at Kearney, will explore the multiple big-ticket shifts currently transforming markets and what they mean for business in the future. Discussion will focus on what companies can and should be doing to prepare.
- Moderator:** Melissa Miller, Executive Director, World Trade Center Kansas City
- Presenter:** Erik Peterson, Senior Partner at Kearney
- Noon-1:30 p.m. **Lunch Break**

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1:15-1:30 p.m. **Informal Networking Opportunity**

1:30-2:00 p.m. **Recognition of 2025 Outstanding Exporters**

- Amfuel, Inc. (Arkansas)
- Conway Machine (Arkansas)
- Litanía Sports Group (Illinois)
- Markwort Sporting Goods (Missouri)
- Missouri Walnut (Missouri)
- Unico, Inc. (Missouri)

2:00-2:45 p.m. **Session 3: Navigating Uncertainty: Tips from the Field** – From supply chain disruptions and shifting trade policies to currency swings and geopolitical changes, uncertainty is a constant in international business. This session brings together seasoned exporters and trade professionals who will share firsthand experiences and practical strategies for staying resilient, adapting quickly, and turning challenges into opportunities. Whether you're just getting started or have years of global trade experience, these field-tested insights can help you manage risk and grow with confidence.

Moderator: Tom Dustman, International Sales Director, Sunnen Products Co.

Panel Members:

- Scott Intagliata, Chief Marketing Officer – Unico, Inc.
- Adam Garfein, Ph.D. - Amfuel Operational Advisor
- Erik Peterson, Senior Partner at Kearney

2:45-3:45 p.m. **Session 4: Ask the Experts Trade Panel** - This session is your chance to hear directly from experienced exporters and trade professionals. They'll share real-world lessons learned, challenges overcome, and strategies that have helped them succeed in global markets. Even better - you'll have the opportunity to ask your own questions and get candid, practical advice. If you're looking to expand internationally or want to sharpen your exporting know-how, this is the session to join. It's all about connecting, learning from peers, and walking away with insights you can put into action.

Moderator: Shannon O'Hagan, Manager, Office of International Trade & Investment, Missouri Department of Economic Development

Panel Members:

- Brian Gordon, SVP & Manager, International Banking - Commerce Bank
- Caitlin Murphy, Founder & CEO, Global Gateway Logistics
- Jim Ryan, Director, Illinois SBDC International Trade Center at Bradley University

3:45-4:00 p.m. **Thanks & Closing Remarks**