



## **ABOUT THE DISTRICT EXPORT COUNCILS**

District Export Councils are organizations of business leaders from local communities, appointed by various U.S. Secretaries of Commerce, whose knowledge of and expertise in international business provides a source of professional advice for their region's local firms. Closely affiliated with the U.S. Commerce Department's Export Assistance Centers and the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service, the 59 DEC's that exist throughout the country support the U.S. Government's export promotion efforts.

Currently there are approximately 1,500 DEC members who volunteer their time and specialized expertise to assist small and medium-sized businesses in their local communities establish or increase export sales, thus promoting our country's economic growth and creating new and higher-paying jobs for their communities. DEC members also sponsor and participate in numerous trade promotion activities, as well as advocate for effective trade policy positions.

In addition, DEC's play a major role in the planning and coordination of export activities for their communities. As a lead organization serving the international business community, DEC's have the capacity to facilitate development of an effective export assistance network and can assist in coordinating the activities of trade assistance partners to leverage available resources. DEC's also serve as a communications link between the business community and the U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service, and support the export expansion activities of the U.S. Commerce Department in a variety of ways within their communities.

While DEC's are a creation of the U.S. Government and individual DEC members receive governmental appointments, neither DEC's nor DEC members represent the U.S. Government in their capacity as DEC's or as DEC members, respectively.

District Export Councils support their mission using funds that are generated through DEC fundraising, events and other activities, without any governmental appropriations. While DEC's may earn revenue and retain net earnings, they may not distribute their retained earnings to any person.

### **The DEC Mission**

The mission of the District Export Councils is to encourage and support U.S. exports of goods and services that strengthen individual companies, stimulate U.S. economic growth, and create jobs. Export expansion activities are accomplished by working with the U.S. Export Assistance Centers to provide opportunities to promote greater export activity at the local level while developing a trade assistance network.

This mission of the District Export Councils is supported through activities such as:

- Counseling and mentoring of local businesses in exporting;
- Identifying export financing sources for businesses;
- Creating greater export awareness in the business community locally;
- Identifying issues affecting export trade and implementation of suggestions for improvement;
- Advocating trade policy and legislation supporting exporters and the U.S. export sector;
- Supporting programs and services of the U.S. Export Assistance Centers;
- Building local export assistance partnerships with other trade-related organizations;
- Providing export training and education through Export University® programs

While DEC members and individual DEC members engage in legislative advocacy and outreach regarding trade issues, DEC members are prohibited from being registered lobbyists and neither DEC members nor DEC members engage in any activity which requires lobbying registration.

### **National District Export Council**

The National District Export Council (National DEC) consists of 16 District Export Council (DEC) members who have been elected to the National DEC by DEC members from each of the eight U.S. Commercial Service Networks. The mission of the National DEC is to provide support and guidance for fulfillment of the mission of the DEC members, and to facilitate communication between the DEC members, between the DEC members and the U.S. Department of Commerce, and between the DEC members and the international business community and policymakers. National District Export Council, Inc. is a non-profit corporation that maintains a 501(c)(6) federal income tax status.

[www.districtexportcouncil.org](http://www.districtexportcouncil.org)

### **National District Export Council Leadership**

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