



PRESS RELEASE



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Louisiana Exporting Group Recognized as Best DEC for 2015

State's District Export Council chosen by International Trade Admin as best among 59 DEC's nationwide

NEW ORLEANS – The Louisiana District Export Council was honored as the 2015 DEC of the Year during the National DEC Forum held Nov. 19 at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center in Washington, D.C.

The Louisiana DEC, one of 59 across the U.S., won the award for its dynamic outreach to Louisiana companies, innovative processes in educating stakeholders on trade issues as well as the council's strategic management.

Receiving the award was Alta Baker, DEC chairwoman and CEO of Safe Haven Enterprises LLC, of Jennings.

"We are humbled to have won this award for the Louisiana DEC's achievements over the past year," said Baker. "The Louisiana DEC has worked tirelessly to educate and support small businesses exploring international opportunities, and we look forward to continuing our successful programs in 2016."

The Louisiana DEC was highlighted for several achievements, including:

- Helping to secure direct flights for Copa Airlines from New Orleans to Panama City, Panama
- Reaffirming the relationship between the Port of South Louisiana and the Panama Canal Commission
- Hosting 50 business executives from multiple industries on a trade mission to Panama
- Leading advanced seminars on exporting to the European Union, Ukraine and Saudi Arabia
- Digitizing trade resources for Louisiana companies for mobile devices and social media

"The Louisiana DEC has been a fantastic supporter of the U.S. Commercial Service," said Brittany Banta, the Louisiana DEC's Executive Secretary and Acting Director for the New Orleans U.S. Export Assistance Center. "We are honored that they have been recognized for their mentoring of new exporters and for their work as the primary trade outreach advisor to the New Orleans USEAC."

District export councils work closely with local U.S. Commercial Service export assistance centers to educate and inform companies on exporting and international trade. DEC's are comprised of seasoned exporters whose companies have been positively impacted by international sales and exporting.

For more information on the Louisiana District Export Council, visit <http://ldec.org/>.

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U.S. Commercial Service

The U.S. Commercial Service is the trade promotion arm of the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration. U.S. Commercial Service trade professionals in over 100 U.S. cities and in more than 75 countries help U.S. companies get started in exporting or increase sales to global markets. Learn more at www.export.gov.