



WES WATKINS CENTER FOR  
**INTERNATIONAL  
TRADE DEVELOPMENT**  
OSU Global

# CITDigest

The mission of the Wes Watkins Center for International Trade Development at OSU (CITD) is to engage the knowledge, network, and resources of Oklahoma State University to make Oklahoma more globally competitive, increase trade, and create jobs to keep Oklahoma companies and students in the state to build their futures.

**Find out more about us!**

## Celebrating Excellence

### ***OSU Achieves APLU's Innovation and Economic Prosperity Designation***

In recognition of its strong commitment to economic engagement, the **Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)** has designated Oklahoma State University as an **Innovation & Economic Prosperity University**. The national designation acknowledges public research universities working with public and private sector partners in their states and regions to support economic development through a variety of activities, including innovation and entrepreneurship, technology transfer, talent and workforce development, and community development. The honor was announced at the APLU

Annual Meeting in Orlando this November, marking a significant achievement for OSU.

Special thanks to the dedicated committee members who devoted countless hours to this endeavor, with particular recognition to **CITD Director Andrew Ranson** for his leadership of the IEP Core Team throughout the rigorous self-study process. This milestone not only **aligns with OSU's "We Are Land Grant" strategy** for engagement, it also embodies the **CITD's core values of excellence and resilience**.





## Out-of-This-World Halloween Victory

### *The CITD Wins Best Unit Costume at Halloween Contest!*

On October 31st, 2024, we joined the annual OSU Global Halloween Party, and it was a day to remember! From savoring delicious international dishes made by our talented students to having a blast and learning new things with a lively game of Jeopardy, every moment was packed with fun. **And the highlight? We *once again* claimed victory in the costume contest!**



# Wes Watkins' Legacy: Making Things Better!

## ***CITD and OSU Global Honor Wes Watkins with Congressional Office Display Dedication***

On Friday, November 1, 2024, OSU Global hosted the dedication of Wes Watkins' Congressional Office Display. Former U.S. Congressman Wes Watkins, the visionary behind the Center for International Trade Development (CITD), inspired our mission to connect Oklahoma to the world through international trade: a legacy that continues to guide us.

His commitment to expanding Oklahoma's exports, driving economic growth, and enhancing the state's global competitiveness remains at the core of our work. This vision aligns seamlessly with President Shrum's goal for Oklahoma State University to become the nation's premier land-grant university, reaching communities across Oklahoma and beyond.

The event was attended by OSU President Dr. Kayse Shrum, Senator James Lankford, Wes Watkins' wife and lifelong partner, Lou, along with his family and friends. Together, we celebrated the tireless dedication of a leader whose work continues to inspire us to Make Things Better!





## Check Out our Latest Research

### ***The Future of Transportation: Maximizing Oklahoma's Potential in the EV Supply Chain***

Oklahoma is on the verge of becoming a major player in the EV battery industry, thanks to its prime location, skilled workforce, and rich resources. With strategic advantages like the Tulsa Port and collaborations with Native American tribes, the state is well-positioned for success.

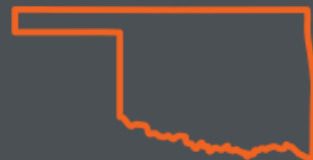
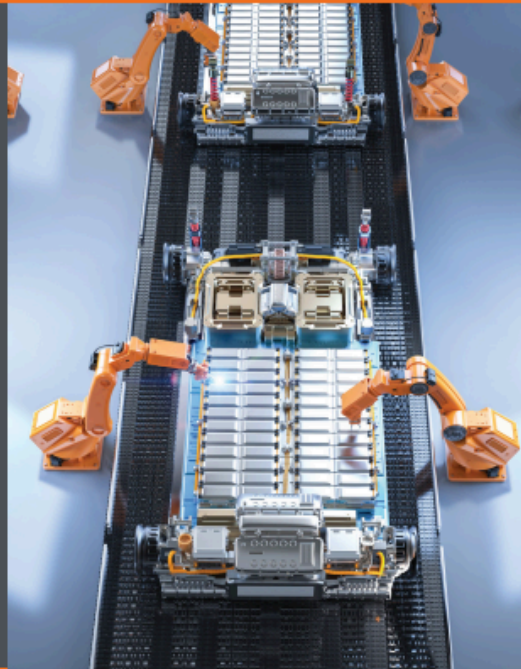
Discover how Oklahoma can lead the change by investing in infrastructure, fostering key partnerships, and implementing smart policies to build a thriving EV battery industry cluster.

**CITD** REPORT

## THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORTATION: Maximizing Oklahoma's Potential in the EV Supply Chain



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School of Global Studies and Partnerships



[Read the full report](#)

## 25 Years of Global Impact

### ***Celebrating the OSU School of Global Studies' Legacy and Vision***

On October 24th, we celebrated a milestone: the 25th anniversary of the OSU School of Global Studies! For over two decades, the SGS has been a bridge connecting the U.S. to a world of opportunities—empowering students, faculty, and the community to embrace international experiences and collaborations.

This year's Homecoming theme, "Innovative Visions, Timeless Traditions," perfectly reflected our mission at the School of Global Studies and the CITD. While we celebrate our legacy of fostering global connections and advancing international trade, we also embrace forward-thinking visions that drive cross-cultural learning and honor the timeless traditions that unite our global community.

Here's to 25 years of making the world our classroom!



**CITD Team**



## Happy Holidays!

### Our CITD Team (Left to right):

Haley Helms, Research Analyst Annette Sharon Stanly Jeyaraj, Damilola Adebayo, International Trade Specialist Mark Walker, CITD Director Andrew Ranson, CITD Associate Director for Research Dr. John Schoeneman, Maria "Loli" Espinosa, Funmilola Adebayo, and Trade Marketing Analyst Maria Lopez.

## We would love to hear from you!

Comment, suggestions, or feedback? We welcome your thoughts. Email us at [citd1@okstate.edu](mailto:citd1@okstate.edu) and connect with us on our social media below:



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