



CITDigest

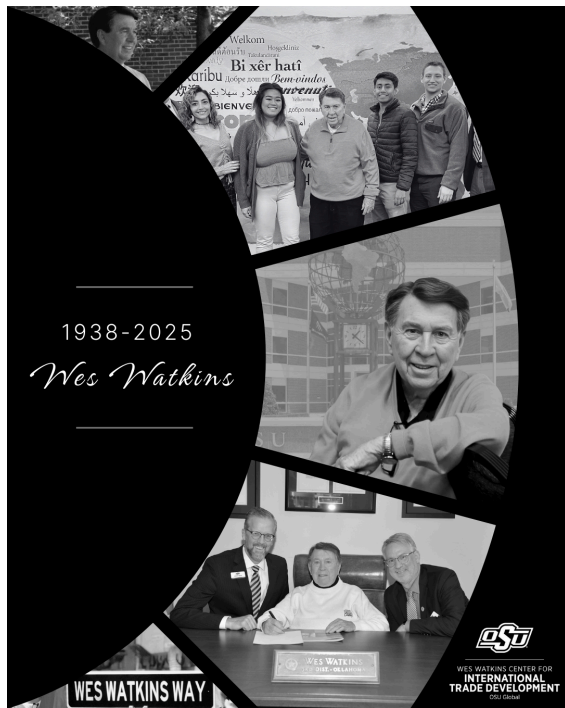
The mission of the Wes Watkins Center for International Trade Development at OSU (CITD) is to engage the knowledge, network, and resources of Oklahoma State University to make Oklahoma more globally competitive, increase trade, and create jobs to keep Oklahoma companies and students in the state to build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

Find out more about us!

We believe that global engagement starts at home. Guided by our mission to make Oklahoma more globally competitive, we champion a strategic approach to developing pathways that enable local businesses and communities to flourish both within Oklahoma and across international markets. Our diverse initiatives—from energy security research collaborations to partnerships with statewide global organizations on international trade events to engagement with emerging topics like the Hamm Institute's recent 'Powering AI: Global Leadership Summit'—all advance Congressman Wes Watkins' enduring vision to 'Make Things Better'.

Continuing Congressman Wes Watkins' Legacy

We honor the life and legacy of Wes Watkins, our founder: a visionary leader who devoted his life to making things better.



One of Wes's strongest and longest-held hopes was to create a vibrant space that would enable support and research regarding the development of Oklahoma's international trade.

After collecting the appropriate funds and drafting a formal proposal to the United States Department of Agriculture Cooperative State Research Services, groundbreaking for the new building occurred on April 22, 1988. Our facility was completed in 1990 and was officially named **the Wes Watkins Center for International Trade Development** in 1998.

Since then, our center has worked to expand Oklahoma businesses engaged in international markets worldwide. We are thankful for Wes's time with us in our office through meetings and discussions on economic development. The work we do is inspired by Wes's vision, as we strive each day to live into his legacy to **'Make Things Better'** for our community.

Insightful Discussion on Global Trade and Tariffs

In Partnership with Global Oklahoma and OSU Spears School of Marketing and International Business

On **Tuesday, March 25, 2025**, we hosted an expert panel discussion on **Global Trade and Tariffs**. The panel explored the impact of tariffs on manufacturing, logistics, pricing, costs, and the legal frameworks that govern them.

The event drew over 40 participants both online and in person—including OSU students, legal specialists, accounting firms, logistics companies, exporters, and corporate representatives—at a pivotal moment in U.S. trade history, as tariffs have become a central focus of President Trump's second term.

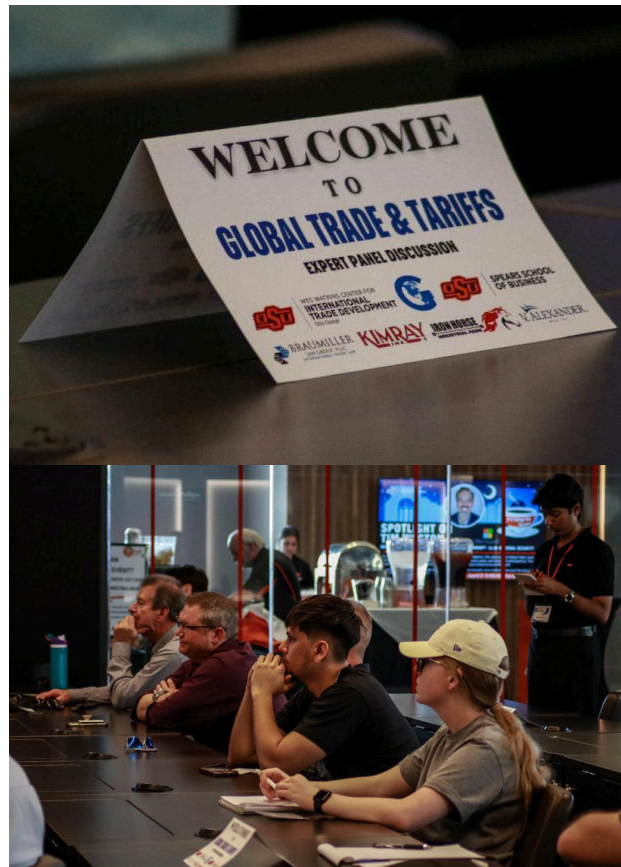
Thank you to the following panelists for bringing an insightful discussion:

Dr. James C. Collard- Iron Horse Industrial Park

Kerry Wang- Senior Associate Attorney & Trade Law Specialist, Braumiller Law

Rick Walker- V. Alexander & Co., Inc.

Erin Shipp- Kimray Inc.



Watch the Event!

Powering AI: Global Leadership Summit



CITD Director Andrew Ranson, Associate Director for Research John Schoeneman, and Research Analyst, Annette Stanly attended The **Powering AI: Global Leadership Summit**, held at the **OSU Hamm Institute for American Energy** on **April 24th**. This summit convened top national policy experts, visionary technology leaders, and American oil and natural gas experts to position the United States as a global leader in AI and big data. Through synergetic dialogue among government officials, technology innovators, and energy leaders, the event focused on ensuring America has the resources, infrastructure, and leadership to drive global growth.

Keynote speakers and panelists included leading voices from both the public and private sectors. Four U.S. cabinet secretaries, plus presidents and CEOs of prominent companies shared insights and strategies to shape the future of American innovation and leadership in a technology-driven world. The summit provided a platform for high-level discussions, networking opportunities, and collaborative efforts to chart a path forward for the U.S. to lead in AI and big data. Additionally, we were delighted that our South Korean partners with whom we are collaborating on energy security research were also in attendance.

Global Connections, Local Impact

Oklahoma's 42nd World Trade Conference!

Our SBDC-ITC staff and Global Trade Fellows had the great opportunity to attend the **42nd annual Oklahoma World Trade Conference** put on by the **District Export Council**.

During the World Trade Conference, there were many discussions on what to expect for international trade in Oklahoma. We heard from a variety of speakers on topics about tariffs, supply chain vertical integration, Artificial Intelligence, and local resources for small businesses wanting to go international.

Our very own -Mark Walker- presented on the panel discussing resources for small businesses and how the CITD and SBDC-ITC can provide assistance or those expanding internationally.

Overall, it was a very insightful discussion pertaining to Oklahoma's international presence, and we are excited to see Oklahoma continue to grow in international markets.



Limitless Business Conference

hosted by Greater OKC Asian Chamber

Greater OKC Asian Chamber inaugurated the **Limitless Business Conference** on **April 24th** at **Innovation Hall in downtown OKC**. This one-day event offered tracks and speaker sessions on entrepreneurship, professional development, and financial strategies, featuring expert speakers like tech founder Piyush Patel and many more. Entrepreneurs and aspirants at various stages of growing their business attended this conference for informative sessions, networking opportunities, and inspiration to take their career or business to the next level.

CITD Team participated in the event and hosted a table where attendees were able to learn more about international trade. One attendee, while talking to the CITD Team, said "going global" has always been his dream, and the information provided by the CITD representatives at the booth was very helpful in that regard. Small business owners also visited the booth to learn about the Small Business Development Center in Stillwater, housed within the CITD.



Check Out our Latest Research

***Tariff Primer:
What to Watch for***

***Securing The Future of LNG:
Challenges & Collaborative
Solutions for the U.S., South
Korea, and Japan***



The President of the United States holds significant authority to impose tariffs, a power rooted in Congressional delegation through key legislative acts. Our latest analysis dives into the U.S. President's authority to impose tariffs, key legislative acts like Section 232 and Section 301, and the potential implications for businesses and global trade.

For small businesses, we outline actionable strategies to navigate tariff changes, optimize supply chains, and manage cost effectively.

[Read the full report](#)



The publication explores how the U.S., South Korea, and Japan can strengthen energy security through collaboration on liquefied natural gas (LNG). It highlights challenges facing U.S. LNG exports such as permitting delays and rising costs and the need for regulatory reform. With global LNG demand expected to rise, the report calls for coordinated strategies to ensure a stable and competitive supply chain.

To access our other trilateral energy security research reports, please visit the "Special Features" section of citd.okstate.edu

[Read the full report](#)

CITD Director, Andrew Ranson, Officially Became Chair of Global Oklahoma!

Andrew Honored with Ceremonial Gavel



On **March 11th**, CITD Director Andrew Ranson **officially becomes Chair of Global Oklahoma!** Governor Kevin Stitt presented the ceremonial gavel during the Gavel Ceremony, symbolizing this important leadership transition. The CITD is excited to strengthen our collaboration with Global Oklahoma as we continue working toward our shared mission of connecting Oklahoma to the world!

Trans-Pacific Dialogue 2025

Strategic Dialogue on U.S.-Japan-Korea Trilateral Cooperation

CITD Director Andrew Ranson and Associate Director for Research, John Schoeneman attended the **Trans-Pacific Dialogue (TPD) 2025** in **Washington, D.C.**, on **February 21 and 22**. The event brought together a remarkable group of approximately 90 current and former high-ranking officials, global scholars, think tanks, and business leaders from South Korea, the United States, and Japan.

Organized by the **Chey Institute for Advanced Studies**, the dialogue focused on important issues in artificial intelligence (AI) and energy. The event host, Chey Tae-won, chairman of SK Group, emphasized the need for cooperation between South Korea, the United States, and Japan, particularly in the AI and energy sectors. Key discussions included U.S. foreign policy, trilateral energy cooperation, AI infrastructure, strategic competition in the AI era, and the security of U.S. alliances in East Asia. By working together, these nations can enhance their competitiveness on the global stage. The outcomes of TPD 2025 are expected to shape future policies and strengthen the collaboration among these key players in the region.



(left to right): Chey Tae-won (Chairman of SK Group), Dr. John Schoeneman, Andrew Ranson, Ann Blutzer Pullin, PhD (Executive Director of the Hamm Institute for American Energy)

CITD Team



Our CITD Team:

*Standing (left to right): International Trade Specialist Mark Walker, Newma Chowdhury, Yassal Ahmar, Haley Helms, and CITD Associate Director for Research Dr. John Schoeneman.
Sitting (left to right): Funmilola Adebayo, Trade Marketing Analyst Maria Lopez, CITD Director Andrew Ranson, Data Analyst Annette Stanly, and Damilola Adebayo.*

As we reflect on our progress, we're reminded that every connection we make is a step toward a more prosperous Oklahoma. Thank you for being part of our journey.

We would love to hear from you!

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



[Contact Us](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Wes Watkins CITD | 103 Wes Watkins Center | Stillwater, OK 74078 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)