

STL PARTNERSHIP

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**World Trade Center St. Louis' Growing Global 2020 Features Southwest Airlines
Chairman and U.S. Ambassador**
- Premier Virtual Business Event Free to Public

September 23, 2020 – St. Louis, MO – World Trade Center Saint Louis (WTC), an initiative of the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, will feature Southwest Airlines Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, Gary C. Kelly, and U.S. Ambassador to Mexico, Christopher Landau, at its annual premier business event, Growing Global. These featured speakers will discuss the changes 2020 has seen in the ways international business, trade, and travel is done and what it all means for businesses.

“International and business travel has been interrupted this year in a way never seen before,” said Kelly. “I look forward to sharing some of the valuable lessons we are learning while navigating through these unprecedented challenges.”

Growing Global 2020 will analyze this rapidly changing landscape as St. Louis leaders prepare for the opportunities and challenges of *Globalization in Transition*, the event’s theme. The event will also include a discussion on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

"USMCA will boost investments on both sides of the border and further deepen trade and investment ties between Missouri and Mexico," said Ambassador Landau.

The event will be emceed by KMOX’s Debbie Monterrey and will also feature remarks by St. Louis County Executive Dr. Sam Page, Mayor Lyda Krewson and St. Louis Economic Development Partnership CEO & President Rodney Crim.

Growing Global 2020 may look different this year being virtual, but it will still have the same great discussions on international business that people look forward to at this annual event. World Trade Center St. Louis Executive Director Tim Nowak is also excited to welcome those who may not normally attend the event.

“We’re honored to have Chairman Kelly and Ambassador Landau speak at this year’s event and are excited for newcomers to attend,” Nowak said. “All are welcome, we just ask that you register for the event on our website, www.worldtradecenter-stl.com.”

Growing Global is the region’s premiere event for the international business community. Established in 1998, the annual meeting provides a regional platform to address timely international issues and their effects on globally growing companies. Each year, more than 600 business leaders representing small, medium-sized and multinational organizations attend the program, making it the St. Louis region’s largest international business focused event. [Register today.](#)

About:

About St. Louis Economic Development Partnership

The [St. Louis Economic Development Partnership](#) provides economic development services for the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County. The Partnership works in collaboration with the St. Louis Development Corporation, AllianceSTL, the Missouri Department of Economic Development, the Missouri Partnership and other economic development partners to attract, retain and grow companies coming to or expanding in the St. Louis region.

About Southwest Airlines Co.

In its 50th year of service, Dallas-based Southwest Airlines Co. continues to differentiate itself from other air carriers with exemplary Customer Service delivered by more than 60,000 Employees to a Customer base topping 130 million passengers in 2019. Southwest became the nation's largest domestic air carrier in 2003 and maintains that ranking based on the U.S. Department of Transportation's most recent reporting of domestic originating passengers boarded. In peak travel seasons during 2019, Southwest operated more than 4,000 weekday departures among a network of 101 destinations in the United States and 10 additional countries. In early 2020, the carrier added service to Hilo, Hawaii, and Cozumel, Mexico and announced plans to begin service to Steamboat Springs, Colorado in December 2020 for a total of 104 airports served.

About the International Trade Administration

The International Trade Administration (ITA) strengthens the competitiveness of U.S. industry, promotes trade and investments, and ensures fair trade through the rigorous enforcement of our trade laws and agreements. ITA works to improve the global business environment and helps U.S. organizations compete at home and abroad.