

State of Small Business Symposium | 2026

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Nate Ward

**Director of the Small Business Development Center
Export Assistance
Cleveland State University**

Since 2012, Nate Ward, MBA, MA, CGBP, CITP, has served as a regional director of the Ohio SBDC EAN office and director of the Global Business Center at CSU. Nate oversees a staff that provides export guidance and services to hundreds of companies from a wide range of industries within a 33-county region of Northern Ohio.

Nate has a decade of private sector international business experience. His past duties included sales, logistics, marketing, pricing, research, and product development. Nate has visited 38 countries and has served extended assignments in seven countries on four continents. Nate holds a NASBITE International Certified Global Business Professional of which he is also a certified trainer. In April 2026 Nate was elected NASBITE's president. In 2022 he received a designation from the Forum for International Trade as a FITT Certified International Trade Professional.

Nate has also taught international business classes in India through the Fulbright Program and in Senegal for the US Embassy. He is a regional coordinator for the Ohio Export Internship Program and has taught several graduate and undergraduate classes on global business topics at CSU.