



## Community Planning & Economic Development

# News Release

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*Minneapolis City Goals:* A Safe Place to Call Home ▫ Jobs & Economic Vitality ▫ Eco-Focused ▫ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives ▫ Many People, One Minneapolis ▫ A City That Works

## City of Minneapolis and Partners to Host Global Export Seminar Giving Local Businesses an International Edge

**November 13, 2013 (Minneapolis)** – According to the Minnesota Trade Office, 87% of the economic growth in this century will occur outside of the United States, yet only 1% of the US firms currently export. On Thursday, November 14, the City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce, and Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED)/Minnesota Trade Office will be partnering to host a free, interactive seminar for metro businesses interested in exploring exporting as part of their business strategy at the downtown Minneapolis office of the Dorsey and Whitney Law Firm from 7:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

This is the second Mainstreaming Exports Seminar held in Minnesota. The first was held last year in Edina with an estimated 40 trade experts and businesses in attendance. This year, Sebastien Tavenas Vice President of Global Sales from Julia Knight Inc., will be among the experts sharing tips on global exporting in the speaker line-up. Julia Knight, Inc. is a local Minneapolis company selling serving ware, glassware, and other home products. Julia Knight, Inc. began successfully exporting to firms in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere internationally after attending a successful 2012 trade mission to Saudi Arabia coordinated by the Minnesota Trade Office and the US-Saudi Arabian Business Council and led by US Congressmen Keith Ellison.

“We are excited to be able to offer this tailored support to our local business community,” said Cathy Polasky, City of Minneapolis Director of Economic Development and Policy. “Our goal is to help these businesses to leverage the strategies and tools learned in this session to expand sales internationally while creating jobs locally.”

Over 55 participants have registered to date. Attending business owners and entrepreneurs will be paired with an experienced mentor who can work with the business to develop an export plan. There is no charge to attend, but online registration is required at [www.minneapolischamber.org/seminar](http://www.minneapolischamber.org/seminar) or by calling 612-370-9100.

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