



Bryant University

THE JOHN H. CHAFEE CENTER  
FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

# 38<sup>TH</sup> WORLD TRADE DAY

MAY 22, 2024

SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCY

ACADEMIC INNOVATION CENTER  
BRYANT UNIVERSITY

# PROGRAM





**Bryant University**

THE JOHN H. CHAFEE CENTER  
FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

# WELCOME TO WORLD TRADE DAY 2024



As we began preparing for our 38th year of convening businesses and government to discuss the trade issues of the day, it was clear to the committee that SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCY was the top issue for many companies both here in Rhode Island and globally. We put together a diverse and targeted program to showcase the issues and more importantly provide some strategies for success.

Thank you for participating and conferring with your colleagues to maximize the day. Special thanks to our committee, speakers and sponsors for your unwavering support and energy.

As the Chafee Center looks to and prepares for the future, we will convene to analyze how we can help businesses with additional resources, programing, and support. Working with our partners in government, we will continue to reach out for suggestions from trade organizations, businesses, and global experts to bring the best we can offer to assist in growth and prosperity.

Enjoy the day, and please reach out with suggestions and advice.

Eva-Marie Mancuso, Esq.  
*Director*

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BRING US YOUR BUSINESS AND WE'LL BRING YOU THE WORLD.

# SCHEDULE

8:30–9:00 A.M.

## **Registration, Networking and Breakfast Refreshments**

9:00–9:30 A.M.

## **WELCOME REMARKS**

Betty Robson, *CEO, JF Moran; World Trade Day Committee Chairperson*

Dr. Ross J. Gittell, *President, Bryant University*

The Honorable Daniel J. McKee, *Governor, State of Rhode Island*

James Golsen, *Deputy Director General, U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service*

Sarah Morgenthau, *Special Representative, U.S. Dept. of State*

Liz Tanner, *Secretary of Commerce, Rhode Island*

9:30–10:15 A.M.



## **OPENING KEYNOTE**

Iftikhar Ahmad, *President & CEO, RI Airport Corporation*

## **Flying Direct: Initiatives to Support Global Business**

David Neeleman, *CEO, Breeze Air*

## **QUESTION & ANSWER**

10:15–10:30 A.M.

## **NETWORKING BREAK**

10:30–11:30 A.M.

## **Resilient Gateways: Global Canal Management and Supply Chains**

**MODERATOR:** Professor Michael Gravier, *Professor of Marketing and Supply Chain Management, Bryant University*

Professor Jorge Barnett Lawton, *Managing Director, Georgia Tech Panama Logistics*

Joseph Morris, *Port Director, MA Port Authority*

Nikolas Persson, *Vice President, Properties and Business Development, RI Airport Corporation*

Paul McDevitt, *Sr. Director Supply Chain Management, Toray*

11:30–11:45 A.M.

## **NETWORKING BREAK: BELLO HALL**

11:45 A.M. – 1:15 P.M.



**LUNCHEON KEYNOTE: BELLO HALL**

Laurie White, CEO, Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce

**AWARD PRESENTATIONS:** Eva-Marie Mancuso, Director, Chafee Center

**Lessons from the Trenches:**

**What I have learned over Three...OK, Make that Four Decades**

Cheryl Merchant, CEO, Taco Comfort Solutions

1:15 – 2:00 P.M.

**BREAKOUT DISCUSSIONS AND MEET OUR GOVERNMENT RESOURCES**

[CHOOSE ONE]

1

**AI's Impact on Supply Chains—From New Tech to Cyber Threats**

**MODERATOR:** June Youngs,  
Executive in Residence,  
Bryant University

Kevin Ricci, Partner, Citrin Cooperman  
Technology, Risk Advisory and Cyber  
Security Practice

Aida Ahmadzadegan-Shapiro,  
Founder & CEO,  
ForeQast Technologies

2

**There's a World of Money Out There—Come Find It**

**MODERATOR:** Matthew Spoehr,  
Deputy District Director, SBA

Joseph Raycraft,  
Export Finance Manager, SBA

Angela Laperriere,  
Vice President, Business Assistance  
Manager and Lending Officer at  
South Eastern Economic  
Development (SEED) Corp.

Eric Aberbach,  
Senior Vice President,  
Santander Bank

3

**Helping Hands: International Trade Resources**

Catherine Marx,  
District Director, CT District &  
RI District Director (acting)

Daniel Horowitz,  
Lender Relations Specialist,  
RI District Office

Diane Fournaris,  
State Director, SBDC

Manuel Batlle,  
Associate State Director, SBDC

Keith Yatsuhashi,  
Director, U.S. Dept. of Commerce

Richard Foy, Regional Director,  
Exim Bank

**2:00–2:15 P.M NETWORKING BREAK**

2:15 P.M.



**CLOSING KEYNOTE**

Erin Read, Marketing Lead, Polaris MEP

**RI Gateway to Global Expansion**

Billy Thalheimer, CEO, REGENT

**3:00–4:30 P.M. A TASTE OF RHODE ISLAND**

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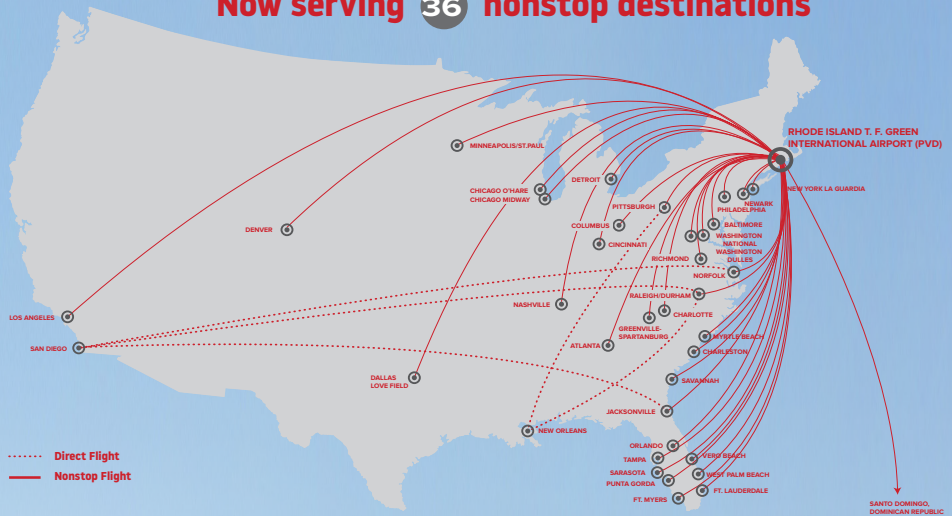


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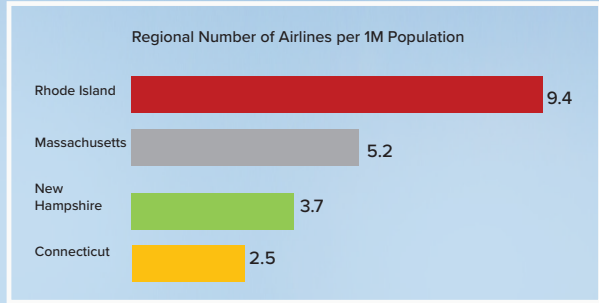
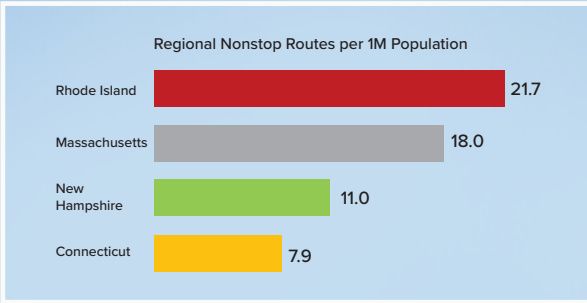
# Powering tourism and economic development

## Rhode Island Airport Corporation at a Glance

Now serving **36** nonstop destinations



### Benchmarking with other regional airports



**\$5.3 BILLION**

**VISITOR SPENDING**  
The \$5.3 billion in direct visitor spending means that almost \$14.6 million was spent **EVERDAY** by visitors in Rhode Island.

**\$3.9 BILLION**

**LABOR INCOME**  
The \$3.9 billion in total income generated by the travel economy is the equivalent of \$9,080 for every household in Rhode Island.

**84,386 JOBS**

**EMPLOYMENT**  
The number of jobs sustained by the travel economy (84,386) supports 12.7% of all jobs in Rhode Island.

**\$903 MILLION**

**STATE AND LOCAL TAXES**  
The \$903 million in state and local taxes generated by the travel economy would cover the average salaries of over 15,200 public school teachers in Rhode Island.





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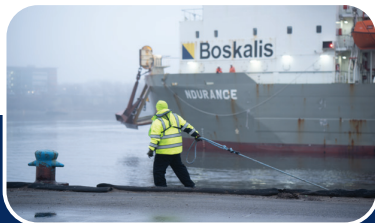
Waterson Terminal Services (WTS) is a full-service port management and stevedoring company with a flagship operation at ProvPort - a 140-acre general cargo marine terminal in Providence, RI. We take pride in our local roots and family-run ethos, championing hands-on customer-centric service that has cultivated enduring client relationships and driven rapid growth. Our comprehensive expertise spans dry and liquid bulk, breakbulk, Ro/Ro and project cargo handling.

With ISO certifications and over 20 years of port management experience, WTS excels in all aspects of port operations. In addition to Providence, we've secured stevedoring licenses in the Port of Davisville, RI and the Port of New Bedford, MA, positioning WTS to strategically harness opportunities in offshore wind and other sectors. WTS is also developing East ProvPort.

Our executive team has over a century of cumulative expertise, ensuring the efficient handling of millions of tons of cargo. We maintain a vigilant, skilled 24/7 workforce with an impeccable safety record and a well-equipped fleet, featuring two 124 MT capacity mobile-harbor cranes. Our strong governmental affiliations have yielded significant infrastructure investments, while our network of financial partners fortifies access to capital.

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improvements and  
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## Offering Best-in-Class Services Across Multiple Maritime Industries



### TERMINAL MANAGEMENT

- Business Development
- Vessel Management
- Port Tariff Development
- Port Security



### STEVEDORING

- Cargo Handling
- Equipment Supply
- Logistics Support
- Mobile Harbor Cranes
- Project Labor



### OTHER SERVICES

- Cable Handling, Logistics & Storage
- Operations & Maintenance
- DNV Certified Cargo Containers
- Warehousing & Storage
- Welding/Fabricating



# Bryant University

THE JOHN H. CHAFEE CENTER  
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## WHY WAIT? LET'S GO GLOBAL TODAY WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

The **STEP grant program** has helped hundreds of small businesses in Rhode Island obtain grants and find customers in the international marketplace since 2011. STEP helps overcome obstacles to exporting by providing grants to cover costs associated with entering and expanding into international markets.

### STEP financial support helps U.S. small businesses:

- Learn to export
- Participate in foreign trade missions
- Design international marketing products and campaigns
- Support website globalization and e-commerce capabilities
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- Participate in export trade show exhibits and training workshops

It takes less than one hour to apply!

### APPLICATION QUESTIONS?

CONTACT: Benjamin Weinstein, STEP Grant Director  
John H. Chafee Center for International Business

401.232.6516 | [bweinstein@bryant.edu](mailto:bweinstein@bryant.edu)



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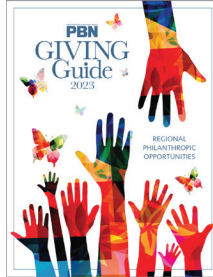
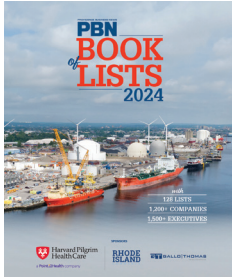
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# Bryant University

## THE JOHN H. CHAFEE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

**The John H. Chafee Center for International Business at Bryant University is Rhode Island's designated agency for global trade and export activities.** For over 40 years, the Center has been committed to growing Rhode Island's local economy by extending its reach worldwide.

Collaborating with RI Commerce, the Small Business Administration, local government, and trade organizations the Chafee Center promotes global business expansion and manages the State Trade and Expansion Program (STEP grant) for small businesses. The Center organizes international trade missions, provides strategic consulting, conducts international market intelligence, and hosts training events.

Situated within Bryant University, the Chafee Center works closely with faculty, staff, and students to offer tailored business consultancy services to local enterprises, enhancing Rhode Island's global presence.

### INTERNATIONAL EVENTS ORGANIZED BY THE CHAFEE CENTER



**H2O Conference and Trade Show**  
Nova Scotia, Canada *June 2023*



**Trade Mission**  
Dominican Republic *August 2023*



**DSEI Defense Show**  
London, UK *September 2023*



**Oceanology International Trade Show**  
London, U.K. *March 2024*



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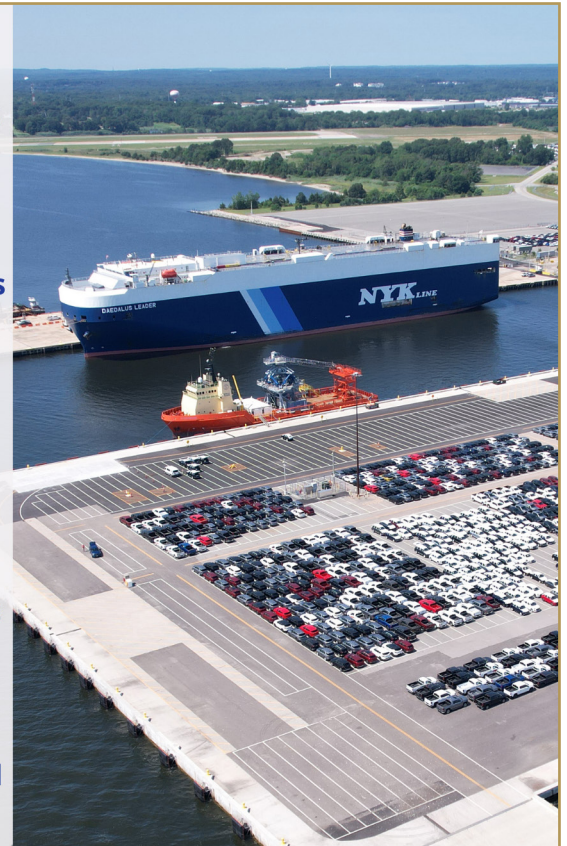
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