

# 2026 Governor's Award for Excellence in Global Trade

## Sponsorship Opportunities

The Arkansas District Export Council (AR DEC) is delighted to announce the 2026 Governor's Award for Excellence in Global Trade. AR DEC strives to encourage the business community by highlighting the recipients' success stories, such as these noted below.



*"When The Steco Corporation was awarded The Arkansas District Export Council's Governor's Award it was an incredible opportunity for our company. Not only was the award a great recognition of our exporting efforts, it prompted new interest in our products from several countries where we currently do very little business. It also spurred us to improve the international appeal of our website which has brought new inquiries for trade. The marketing leverage of the Governor's Award has provided huge benefits to our company and we appreciate the Arkansas District Export Council for providing this incentive to expand trade in our state." – Ken Gaines, The Steco Corporation*



*"Winning the Arkansas District Export Council's Governor's Award has increased visibility for Virco as a competitor in international markets. The award and recognition have strengthened our credibility with our customers and has opened the door to new opportunities for growth. We appreciate the recognition of being a manufacturer and international supplier of educational furniture by the Arkansas District Export Council and the opportunities that winning the Governor's Award has provided." Steve Presley, Virco Manufacturing Corporation*

We will present these awards during our annual Awards Luncheon **on September 17, 2026**. As a respected member of the Arkansas business community, AR DEC invites you to sponsor this event and partner with us. Sponsoring this exciting event allows you to meet and network with AR DEC members. Additionally, as outlined on the next page, sponsorship benefits include logo branding during the event, recognition on the AR DEC website ([www.exportarkansas.org](http://www.exportarkansas.org)), event tickets, and more.

Please indicate your interest in sponsorship by contacting **Michael Schreckenhofer, Vice Chair, at [michael@leatherbrothers.com](mailto:michael@leatherbrothers.com) or (501) 329-9471**. Please send checks to 323 Center Street, Suite 1800, Little Rock, AR 72201, **by August 1, 2026**.

### Frequently Asked Questions:

- **Can my company sponsor the event even if we cannot attend?** Yes! We will ensure your seats go to other guests.
- **Can you provide an invoice and W-9?** Yes! We routinely provide these for every sponsor. Let us know if you need additional documentation for donations.
- **Can you take ACH payments?** Yes! We can make arrangements for ACH payments upon request.
- **I have another question.**  
Contact Michael (details above) or Heidi Whitman at [coordinator@exportarkansas.org](mailto:coordinator@exportarkansas.org).

# Sponsorship Levels

	Platinum Sponsor	Diamond Sponsor Governor's Table	Gold Sponsor #1	Gold Sponsor #2	Silver Sponsor	Bronze Sponsor	Individual Tickets
	\$5,000	\$3,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$500	\$150
Number of Sponsorships Available	1	1	1	1	17	Multiple	Multiple
Table seats	2, Governor's Table	2, Governor's Table	2, winner's table	2, winner's table	10, regular table	2, regular table	1
Sponsor Welcome Message at the Event (5 minutes at podium)	X						
Logo Branding during Event on Main Screen and First Level Recognition on DEC Website	X	x					
Introduction during Opening Remarks	X	x	X	X			
Social Media marketing with logo, tagging and hyperlink to website, prior to event	x	x	x	x			
Corporate Profile included in the Event Program	X	x	X	X			
Social media post as a group with logo and LinkedIn tagging					x		
Logo Branding on All Print Material	X	x	X	X	X	x	
Logo Branding on Table Tent	X	x	X	X	X	x	
Company Name Listed in Event Program	X	x	X	X	X	X	
Listed as supporter on DEC Website	X	x	X	X	X	X	