



NATIONAL U.S.-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

غرفة التجارة الأمريكية العربية الوطنية

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U.S. – ARAB CHAMBER RECEIVES PRESIDENT’S “E” AWARD FOR EXPORT SERVICE

*U.S. Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker Commends
NUSACC as a “Champion for Some of the Most Positive
Developments in the Arab World”*

*For the First Time in Its 54-Year History, “E” Award Goes to a
Chamber of Commerce Dedicated to U.S. – Arab Relations*

Washington, DC – The National U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce (NUSACC) today received the 2016 President’s “E” Award for Export Service. While various chambers of commerce have won the “E” Award for Export Service over the years, this is the first time in the 54-year history of the award that it went to a chamber that is dedicated to U.S. – Arab relations. The “E” Award, conferred by the President of the United States, is the highest recognition that any U.S. entity may receive for supporting export activity.

“NUSACC is proud and humbled to receive this prestigious award in service to American exporters and U.S. – Arab commercial relations,” said David Hamod, the Chamber’s President & CEO. “I accept this award today on behalf of the Chamber’s team members in our five offices, as well as our many affiliates around the United States and throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.”



Hamod and Executive Vice President Gordon Gray received the award from the Honorable Penny Pritzker, U.S.

Secretary Penny Pritzker (left) with David Hamod (center), NUSACC President & CEO, and Amb. (ret.) Gordon Gray (right), NUSACC Executive Vice President.

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Secretary of Commerce, in a ceremony held in Washington DC. In her remarks commemorating the event, Pritzker singled out NUSACC for special recognition, saying, “At a time when a lot of the news coming out of the Middle East and North Africa has been negative, the Chamber is a champion for some of the most positive developments in the Arab world, namely, a strong demand for U.S. exports and a surge in entrepreneurship. That definitely deserves a round of applause.”



H.E. Yousef Al Otaiba,
UAE Ambassador to the United States.

Pritzker stated, “The National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce has demonstrated a sustained commitment to export expansion.” The Commerce Secretary thanked the Chamber for “hosting multiple trade shows and events,” concluding that NUSACC “undoubtedly contributed to national export expansion efforts that support the U.S. economy and create American jobs.”

The news was well received by the Arab diplomatic community in Washington DC. “As an effective advocate for greater U.S. - Arab economic cooperation, NUSACC plays an important role to facilitate stronger commercial ties between the

U.S. and the United Arab Emirates, as well as many other nations in the Middle East,” noted H.E. Yousef Al Otaiba, the UAE Ambassador to the United States. He concluded, “Through the support of organizations like NUSACC, the UAE has remained the largest destination for American exports in the Middle East for six consecutive years. The UAE’s trade with the U.S. supports hundreds of thousands of good American jobs, helps to drive the UAE’s continued economic growth and diversification, and enhances our overall bilateral relationship.”

NUSACC is the only business entity in the United States that is officially recognized and sanctioned by the League of Arab States, as well as the General Union of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry, and Agriculture. H.E. Salah A. Sarhan, the Arab League Ambassador to the United States, noted, “The U.S. – Arab Chamber of Commerce is one of the most significant and active joint Arab – foreign chambers of commerce operating under the umbrella of the League of Arab States. It plays a prominent role in strengthening and enhancing U.S. – Arab trade relations and is working closely to encourage encounters between American businesses and their counterparts from the Arab countries, noting that the volume of U.S. goods exports to the Arab world in 2015 reached \$67.4 billion.”



H.E. Salah Sarhan,
Arab League
Ambassador to the
United States.

The National U.S. - Arab Chamber of Commerce, established nearly 50 years ago, is America’s longest serving organization dedicated to U.S. - Arab business. NUSACC is widely regarded as the voice of American business in the Arab world and the premier private sector portal to the United States for Arab commercial enterprises.

NUSACC serves as a resource to over 25,000 stakeholder companies, the vast majority of which are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) based in the United States. The Chamber prides itself on its ability to serve as a commercial bridge between the USA and the Arab world. Much of NUSACC's success in spanning these corporate cultures can be attributed to the Chamber's team of experienced professionals who believe in the group's core mission of strengthening U.S. - Arab relationships through two-way trade and investment. With offices in New York, Houston, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, and its headquarters in Washington DC, NUSACC is the only chamber of its kind to provide "coast-to-coast" service.



The "E" Award is conferred by the President of the United States. Here, President Obama launches the National Export Initiative.

NUSACC was nominated for the award by the Virginia/Washington DC U.S. Export Assistance Centers (USEACs). "We couldn't have chosen a more deserving partner than NUSACC," said William Fanjoy, Director of the Virginia/Washington DC USEAC. "NUSACC routinely bridges relationships between our U.S. exporting clients and Arab ministers, businesses, ambassadors, investors and even Nobel Peace Prize winners, just to name a few."



U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker (front center right) and then-U.S. Ambassador Jake Waller-Liessler (second from right) join some of NUSACC's trade mission delegates in Tunisia.

Fanjoy continued, “These unique relationships are the backbone of U.S. - Arab business, and NUSACC’s role as facilitator is something that we, at the U.S. Export Assistance Centers, have grown to count on. This is true partnership!” Finally, he quipped, “Unfortunately for President & CEO David Hamod, all of our Senior International Trade Specialists have him on speed dial!”

“All of us at the Chamber are proud of our longstanding partnerships with the Virginia/ Washington DC USEACs, District Export Councils (DECs) and USEACs around the United States, as well as the Commercial Service professionals serving throughout the MENA region,” said NUSACC’s David Hamod. “We are very grateful to receive the ‘E’ award, which is a reflection of these excellent partnerships. I hope that NUSACC’s success today also highlights the great work that our U.S. Government colleagues do, day in and day out.”



At today’s “E” Award ceremony, NUSACC was represented by: David Hamod (center), NUSACC President & CEO; Amb. (ret.) Gordon Gray (right), NUSACC Executive Vice President; Amin Salam (left), NUSACC Vice President of Business Development.

The National U.S.-Arab Chamber of Commerce, widely regarded as the voice of American business in the Arab world, is in touch with business communities across the United States and serves as the U.S. point of contact for the national chambers of commerce in the 22 Arab nations. On a daily basis, NUSACC works closely with leaders throughout the Arab world, as well as high-level decision makers in the U.S. business community, public policy research centers, multilateral institutions, nongovernmental organizations, media, and the U.S. Government.

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