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Global trade certificate program concludes second series of training

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Recommended Citation

University of Montana–Missoula. Office of University Relations, "Global trade certificate program concludes second series of training" (2008). *University of Montana News Releases, 1928, 1956-present*. 21029.

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June 23, 2008

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GLOBAL TRADE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM CONCLUDES SECOND SERIES OF TRAINING

MONTANA –

More than 40 individuals from a diverse group of Montana companies recently participated in the second series of the Global Trade Certificate program, which is offered by the Governor's Office of Economic Development, the Small Business Administration and the Montana World Trade Center.

Guest speakers included Assistant Secretary David M. Spooner of the International Trade Administration, Joe Tosto, an Export Administration specialist from the Bureau of the Industry and Security, Robert Straetz from the office of the European Union, and Inga Fisher Williams, a regional export finance manager from the Small Business Administration. The guest speakers, along with several other local and regional experts, presented on topics such as international business trends, managing risk, international banking and financing, legal issues and requirements, documentation, negotiations and logistics.

"We are pleased to have graduated another group of professionals from this program," said Arnie Sherman, director of The University of Montana-based MWTC. "Montana businesses play a role in global market place and this is the type of training that gives businesses and services providers an advantage when entering foreign markets."

Montana Gov. Brian Schweitzer agreed. "The Global Trade Certification program offers a significant advantage to Montana business professionals competing in today's global economy," he said. "As a state we've seen tremendous growth in our export opportunities, and this program has created a network of certified businesses that will ensure that economic growth continues for years to come."

Lynn Baker, an attorney from Great Falls, completed the training and said, "This course is an absolute 'must' for any attorney who wants to advise clients involved in import or export. This area of the law is growing by leaps and bounds and only a few Montana attorneys have the training to properly assist clients. This is exciting and practical course; I loved every minute."

The program was a three-part series held in Billings, Bozeman and Missoula. Those completing the full program will be listed as Certified Global Trade Professionals in a state directory available on the Governor's Office of Economic Development and MWTC Web sites (at <http://www.business.mt.gov> and <http://www.mwtc.org>, respectively).

Participants also received 40 hours of Continuing Professional Education credit or prorated hours for individual sessions completed. The Montana State Bar Association approved the course for nine hours of Continuing Legal Education credits.

The next series of training is slated to begin in April 2009. To learn more about the program or register for future sessions, call Nicole Hagerman at 406-243-5856.

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