



RUSS MONK

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Operations/Co-Founder**
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Why I volunteer for the Oregon District Export Council:

I love seeing small/medium businesses expand through exports. The innovations and quality products we have in the region has changed the world and it is fun to be part of this global effort. I look at jobs as the great equalizer and exporting creates US jobs.

A unique event I've had in international business: At a trade mission in Saudi Arabia, due to pending paperwork, Commerce Trade managers couldn't attend a crucial meeting with Aramco; given 5 minutes' notice, I stepped in as the MC, representing the senior Commerce team and facilitating connections between our businesses and Aramco's needs.

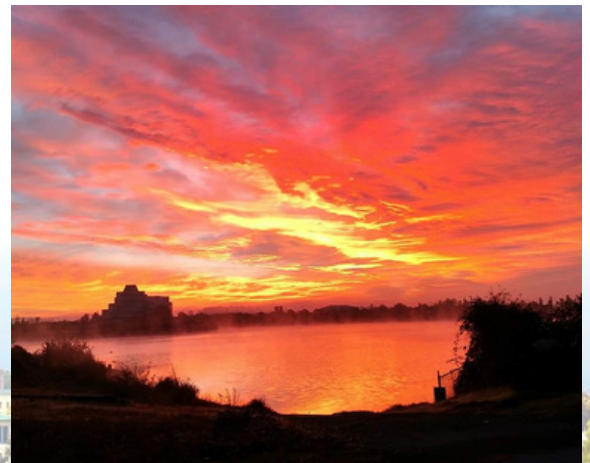
Craziest customs during international travel: In Eastern Europe they want to drink together before you do business. They want to see what kind of person you are, and they believe alcohol helps that happen.

My most inspiring mentors: The great folks at Commerce that have helped guide a small businessman through the international waters. This started with Kellie Holloway and Scott Goddin here in Portland and has expanded to 20 embassies helping me with their culture, trade, and what not to do's.

My favorite city: A toss-up between Istanbul, Turkey, Krakow, Poland and Amman, Jordan.

Best sunset I've observed:

Drinking coffee in Europe and watching the sun come up over Asia across the Bosphorus Strait in Istanbul. Next best is the sunrise over Salem from our offices.



Istanbul, Turkey