

Kyle Burns

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Kyle joined Free Trade Alliance in April 2007 as the President & CEO. The Free Trade Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting San Antonio as an international trade center. Kyle's road to the Alliance began in May 2000 when the U.S. Congress House Ways and Means Committee relied upon Kyle's testimony in regards to China's ascension into the World Trade Organization. This opportunity impressed upon Kyle how his experience could make an impact on an entire community or nation and sparked his interest in one day joining the Alliance to further their goals.

Kyle began his career at Columbia Industries, Inc., a local sporting goods manufacturer, in 1993, where he continued until 2007. During this time, Kyle progressed up the ranks from the international customer service representative to Director of Sales-Asia/Pacific and ultimately to the Vice President of International Sales. During his tenure at Columbia Industries, Kyle was responsible for the international sales and marketing efforts for as many as five brands of sporting goods. Due to the majority of Columbia's exports being to the Asian and European markets, Kyle has extensive experience working and traveling throughout Asia and Europe. Most recently Kyle implemented a distribution center in Rotterdam, The Netherlands to distribute Columbia's family of brands throughout Europe, with strategic focus on the fast growing Eastern European markets.

Born in Wiesbaden, Germany and having lived in England for seven years as a child, Kyle gained a global perspective early in life. His father's military career eventually landed the family in San Antonio where he graduated from Central Catholic High School (1989). Kyle later earned his Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in International Business from St. Mary's University (1993), during which Kyle studied the European Union for one semester in Innsbruck, Austria and traveled throughout much of the European continent. In 2002 Kyle earned a Master's of Business Administration from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

In his spare time, Kyle spends his time with his daughter, Calista and is a competitive triathlete, marathoner and ultra-marathoner.