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Ursula founded Emelev, LLC with the goal of assisting US exporters reach their export potential. Emelev helps companies navigate a variety of trade finance tools and best practices to manage international sales risk, finance exports and increase global competitiveness.

A trusted advisor and international trade expert, Ursula has dedicated her career to guiding small and medium- sized manufacturers on export strategy, trade finance, compliance and logistics. With more than 20 years of experience in private sector, government and non-profit organizations, she partners with companies to develop successful export strategies, leveraging the many tools and resources available to increase sales, protect payments and win new customers.

Before starting Emelev, Ursula was a Business Development Manager for LR International, an “E Star” award winning, family-owned global logistics firm based in Chicago. At LR International, she worked primarily with manufacturers and distributors in the Midwest helping them understand exporting and importing logistics - from compliance to efficient movement of cargo to payment.

Ursula’s experience also includes working with importer and exporter clients at JP Morgan Chase and Wells Fargo international divisions, placing trade credit insurance policies for the SME sector as Principal of a niche specialty broker, and increasing export finance awareness through an economic development initiative as Director of Export Finance at Illinois Global Partnership. Ursula began her career at the Export-Import Bank of the U.S., where she advised U.S. based exporters and the banking industry on US government export finance programs.

Ursula was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to serve on the **Illinois District Export Council** in the role of Secretary of the Executive Committee. Ursula is also the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the International Trade Association of Chicago (ITAGC). As an “Export Coach” to SMEs enrolled in “ExporTech”, Ursula mentors companies working on export expansion plans. She is a member of the Illinois Advisory Board to the **U.S. Global Leadership Coalition** and a member of various international trade organizations. Ursula is an active speaker on the topics of export trade credit insurance and international trade finance. She received her B.A. in Political Science from Loyola University Chicago and her M.A. in International Affairs with a concentration in International Economic Policy from American University. She lives in Park Ridge, IL with her husband and three daughters.