

2026 U.S. CELEBRATION OF WORLD STANDARDS DAY (WSD): CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING AND SHOWCASE

An Electrifying Future Powered by Standards

Tuesday, December 8, 2026 | Top of the Hill Conference Center | Washington, DC

OVERVIEW

The 2026 U.S. Celebration of World Standards Day (WSD) brings the U.S. standardization community together with congressional staff and federal decision makers around the issues shaping national policy.

From artificial intelligence and data centers to critical minerals and other emerging technologies, many of the national priorities before Congress depend on standards. The **WSD Congressional Briefing** brings together leaders from government, industry, and the standards community to show how the U.S. public-private standards system helps the nation compete, innovate, and lead, and what policymakers should know as they shape the road ahead.

The **WSD Showcase** provides concrete evidence, giving organizations an interactive space to educate Hill staff and fellow attendees on how private-sector-led standards are advancing solutions in these areas. Concluding the event, the **WSD Celebration** will include the presentation of the Ronald H. Brown Standards Leadership Award and WSD Paper Competition, followed by a networking reception.

WSD is a widely attended event that is co-sponsored and attended by federal government agencies to recognize and honor the many contributions of the U.S. standards and conformity assessment community.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS *Registration required*

There is no fee to attend the WSD Showcase and Congressional Briefing, though advance registration is required. An admission ticket is required for the WSD Celebration and Networking Reception.

TIME	EVENT	DESCRIPTION
11:15am–12:00pm	**Registration, Lunch, & WSD Showcase**	
12:00pm–1:30pm	**WSD Congressional Briefing**	**12:00–12:45 pm: Panel 1: Standards, Policy, and U.S. Competitiveness** Federal trade and technology leaders gather to discuss where standards meet U.S. trade, technology, and economic policy. This panel will look at how government and the private sector work together to strengthen critical mineral supply chains, support trustworthy AI, and advance American leadership in critical and emerging technologies at home and abroad.

TIME	EVENT	DESCRIPTION
		Moderator: **Debra Phillips,** President and CEO, NEMA **Panelists:** • **Laurie E. Locascio,** Ph.D. NAE, President and CEO, American National Standards Institute (ANSI) • **Sushan Demirjian,** Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Small Business, Market Access, and Industrial Competitiveness, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) • **Shyam Sunder,** Ph.D., Associate Director for Laboratory Programs, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) **(invited)** • **Jennifer Stradtman,** Senior Director, Technical Barriers to Trade, Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) **12:55 – 1:30 pm: Panel 2: From Standards to Solutions** How do standards move from the committee table into the real world? This panel brings together standards developers and industry leaders who will share how voluntary consensus standards keep AI, data centers, and the electrified infrastructure behind them safe, efficient, and interoperable as technology moves faster than ever. **Moderator:** **Mary Saunders,** Senior Vice President, Government Relations and Public Policy, ANSI **Panelists:** • **Muhammad Ali,** Standards Strategist and Chief of Staff to Chief IP Counsel, HP Inc. • **Wade Conlan,** Treasurer, ASHRAE • **Patrick Hughes,** Senior Vice President, Strategy, Technical, and Industry Affairs, NEMA • **David McKnight,** Vice President of Government Relations and Partnerships, UL Standards & Engagement (ULSE)
1:30pm–2:00pm	**WSD Showcase (Continued)**	Guests are invited to visit the showcase space at their own pace, with additional time for conversation at each table.

Admission Ticket Required:

2:00pm–2:30pm	**WSD Celebration and Presentations**	Presentation of the Ronald H. Brown Standards Leadership Award and the World Standards Day Paper Competition winner.
2:30pm–4:00pm	**WSD Networking Reception**	Reception held among the showcase displays, allowing additional time for follow-up conversations and Q&A between attendees.

Schedule and speakers subject to change