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WBD Announces 2017 Class of Elite Lenders

Local bankers lead community efforts to support small business

[WBD Inc.](#) (formerly Wisconsin Business Development) is honoring 8 lenders from across Wisconsin as WBD Elite Lending Partners for their success in helping small business get the financing they need to grow, create jobs and build communities. This new class of Elite Lenders join 12 others that have been inducted over the past few years.

"WBD has helped thousands of businesses and worked with hundreds of banks and lenders, but this group has distinguished itself as our top lending partners, proving time and again they will put the needs of their customers first when it comes to helping their small business customers get the financing they need to grow and succeed," explained WBD President/CEO Dan Schneider.

These 8 lenders have distinguished themselves by helping ten or more businesses move forward by partnering with WBD to provide their customers the low, long-term, fixed-rate financing available through the SBA 504 program. Their combined efforts have identified 100 financing projects in 22 different counties, placing over \$165 Million into the hands of these small businesses for growth and expansion.

"This group shares our commitment growing our economy by investing in the ideas, ingenuity and hard work of small businesses across Wisconsin. Together these projects have created 791 new jobs and helped retain another 741 existing jobs." stated Schneider. "We are especially proud that ¼ of all the businesses financed by this group over the years were owned by women."

WBD partners with local lender across Wisconsin, in the Twin Cities Metro area of Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to provide small business financing for fixed assets. WBD is the top Certified Development Company (CDC) in the Midwest and finished 2017 ranked #8 of 223 active CDCs in the nation. Every business served by WBD is done in conjunction with a local lender.

WBD is proud to recognize the following lenders as the 2017 class of the WBD Elite Lending Partners:

Lender	Bank	Location
Connie Suemnicht	Bank of Wisconsin Dells	Wisconsin Dells
Glenn Michaelsen	Spring Bank	Brookfield
Bill Kadrich	Marine Bank	Elm Grove
Tim Schneider	Investors Community Bank	Manitowoc
Steve Faulhaber	Peoples State Bank	Menomonie
Kevin Blinsmon	Hiawatha National Bank	Hudson
Edward Kinney	Settlers Bank	Windsor
Dennis Haefer	State Bank of Cross Plains	Verona

"Each of these lending partners is a true ally to the small businesses in the communities they serve," concluded Schneider.

Since 1981, WBD, Inc. has been partnering with financial institutions to provide access to capital to help small businesses grow and keep our economy strong. As a SBA Certified Development Company, WBD is able to access financing solutions that help reduce risk for lenders and improve terms for borrowers. WBD is proud to have funded more than \$2.5 billion of small business projects which have created more than 65,000 jobs statewide.

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