

News Release

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Wisconsin Family Business of the Year Award Nominees Announced

MADISON, WI APRIL 3, 2018: Now in its fifteenth year, the Wisconsin Family Business of the Year Award has received nominations from 23 companies around the state. Awards will be given to Small (under 25 employees), Medium (25-99) and Large (100+) companies.

From pizza crusts, to seed corn, real estate to auto repair, dentistry to banking, these family businesses provide products and services we use every day. There are first through seventh generation family businesses. They come from industries including auto dealers, agriculture, manufacturing, association management, financial institutions, marketing, and construction.

The nominees are:

- Artisan Dental, LLC Madison
- Ayers Furniture Ridgeway
- Ayres Painting Company Middleton
- Baker's Quality Pizza Crusts, Inc. Waukesha
- Brew City Marketing Milwaukee
- Champion Storage Sheboygan
- Chapter 2, Inc. Lake Mills
- Diversified Seed Producers, LLC DeForest
- Don Johnson Auto Group Rice Lake
- Empire Screen Printing, Inc. Onalaska
- Hartland Service, Inc. Hartland
- Heck Capital Advisors, LLC Rhinelander
- Hunzinger Construction Company Brookfield
- Impact Virtual Services Madison
- J&D Tube Benders, Inc. Weston
- La Crosse Sign Group Onalaska
- Lerdahl Business Interiors Middleton
- Reed Switch Developments Corp. Racine
- Shorewest, REALTORS Brookfield
- Tools of Marketing, Inc. Prairie du Sac
- Trans International Menomonee Falls
- Union Bank & Trust Company Evansville
- Waunakee Furniture ETC & Gift Gallery Waunakee

The winners will be selected by a panel of independent judges based on criteria including: positive links between family and business, contribution to community and industry, and

innovative practices. The winners will be announced at a banquet on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at the Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center in Madison. The banquet is open to the public as well as the nominees, past nominees, and friends.

Family-owned firms contribute a great deal to the economy of the United States. Family-owned businesses make up more than a third of the companies in the S&P 500. A study by Texas A&M University showed that family owned firms beat other firms in revenue and employment growth. Family businesses contribute to the positive culture and stability of our communities.

The award program is sponsored by **Smith & Gesteland**, a Madison-based CPA and consulting firm, **First Business Bank**, and **Husch Blackwell**, a Wisconsin law firm.

For more information on the program and the banquet you can call Neil Fauerbach at 608-836-7500, or visit www.familybusinessaward.com.

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