



October 12, 2016

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### **Beloit Business, Western Container Corp named WBD Small Business of the Year**

On Thursday October 13, 2016 Western Container Corporation will be honored by WBD at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Friends of Small Business Luncheon to be held at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison. WBD (formerly Wisconsin Business Development Finance Corporation) will honor Western Container Corporation and its owner Jeff Perrigo as the 2016 WBD Small Business of the Year.

“Our mission is to grow businesses, create jobs and build communities and this annual event is our opportunity to showcase some of the tremendous business successes that inspire us. It is our time to showcase what these entrepreneurs are doing to make our economy and our communities better.” explained Dan Schneider WBD President/CEO.

The Small Business of the Year is the premier award of the FOSB event. It is to recognize a business that been in business at least five years, is succeeding and has shown the staying power to grow over time, the ability to weather changes in the economy and their industry and a solid a history of job creation.

“Since 2010 I have worked with Jeff and the other wonderful people at Western Container on five different expansion and equipment purchases,” noted WBD VP/Loan Officer Diane Byler. “It has been exciting to see this established business boldly grow and thrive. They have doubled their employees during this time to nearly 50!”

Western Container Corporation is located in Beloit, Wisconsin and is a premium manufacturer of both paper tubes and paper cores. Company owner Jeff Perrigo’s reacted to the news of the award, “I am honored, but the credit here goes to many people on my team. We are focused on meeting the needs of our customers, expanding our capabilities and growing our business. Getting financing from WBD and Gateway Community Bank have really helped make our recent growth possible, but it was a surprise to learn that they were as proud of our efforts as we are.”

For 35 years, WBD has been partnering with Wisconsin financial institutions provide business financing solutions to help small businesses grow, create jobs and build communities. As a SBA Certified Development Company, WBD is able to utilize the powerful SBA 504 program that reduces risk for lenders and improves terms for borrowers, helping more small businesses get access to capital for growth and expansion. WBD is proud to have funded more than \$2 billion of small business growth leading to the creation of nearly 64,000 jobs statewide and consistently ranks in the top 10 most successful development companies in the country.

**See attached event program for more information including more about Western Container’s story on page 5 or follow the link to see the Western Container Introduction Video - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4o9FYLHPUv4>**