



For Immediate Release

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2018 Community and Economic Development Awards Finalists Announced

Madison, WI – The Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA) today announced finalists for the 2018 Community and Economic Development Awards (CEDA). The awards program was established by WEDA to recognize businesses, projects and organizations that are making significant contributions to Wisconsin's economy.

In total, 17 entities were nominated as finalists in six separate award categories for the fourth annual CEDA Awards:

- **Business Retention & Expansion** – This award honors innovative economic development projects where communities have successfully mobilized to help retain and potentially expand the operations of an existing business critical to the economic vitality of the community. **Finalists:**
 - *DuraTech Industries*
 - *Duluth Trading Company*
 - *Masters Gallery Foods*
- **Economic Development Initiative** – This award honors innovative community and economic development efforts that successfully promote growth and prosperity in Wisconsin communities. **Finalists:**
 - *Artisan Forge Studios*
 - *New North Supply Chain Marketplace*
 - *St. Croix Valley Business Innovation Center*
- **Economic Driver** – This award honors businesses committed to long-term investment in their Wisconsin operations that have a significant economic impact in their community and across the state. **Finalists:**
 - *Century Foods*
 - *Generac Power Systems*
- **Private-Public Partnership** – This award honors projects, programs or initiatives that have been successful due to exceptional collaboration between the public and private sectors. **Finalists:**
 - *Grand Kakalin project*
 - *Live It Up Wausau Partnership*
 - *UW-Green Bay Phoenix Innovation Park*
- **Real Estate Redevelopment and Reuse** – This award honors innovative real estate redevelopment or reuse projects that have had a positive impact on a community's economy, including job growth and increased tax base. **Finalists:**
 - *Belle Square project*
 - *Empire Block project*
 - *Menominee Nation Arena*

- **Talent Development** – This award honors initiatives or programs that have driven successful talent development efforts to strengthen the Wisconsin Workforce. **Finalists:**
 - *Inspire Madison Region*
 - *Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board*
 - *UW Health*

Finalists will be screened by an impartial panel of WEDA members and partners, and winners will be recognized at a ceremony on September 12, 2018, at The Edgewater Hotel in Madison. The award event is open to the public. For more information and to register, please go www.weda.org/events.

About WEDA:

For over 40 years, WEDA has been dedicated to expanding Wisconsin's economy through advocacy, education and providing resources to promote economic growth. WEDA is a statewide trade association comprised of economic development professionals, businesses and organizations who strive to make Wisconsin a better place to live, work and do business through economic development. For more information, visit our website at www.weda.org.

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