



News Release

MINNESOTA DISTRICT OFFICE

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SBA Announces Top Minnesota Lenders, Presents Awards

Woodlands National Bank honored by Small Business Administration as Community Lender of the Year



MINNEAPOLIS—SBA is honoring 11 lenders throughout Minnesota for their commitment to helping small businesses succeed from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

“SBA’s lenders work hard every day to help small businesses start, grow and succeed,” says Nancy Libersky, SBA’s Minnesota District Director. “We guarantee the loans, but it is the banks, credit unions and our incredibly strong community-based lenders, who put money in the hands of business owners. These dollars are creating new businesses and new jobs in the state every day.” Minnesota is currently ranked 11th in the number of SBA loan guarantees and 16th in the number of dollars guaranteed out of 68 district offices nationwide.

Of note, Minnesota's 2016 SBA Community Lender, Woodlands National Bank, was chosen based on the growth of its small business loan portfolio, the positive impact of its commitment to small business lending in the communities it serves, and its pledge to giving back to the community. Woodlands National Bank serves small businesses in eastern Minnesota from just south of Duluth to the greater metro area and into Minneapolis.

The complete list of the 2016 SBA Minnesota Lenders Awards are as follows:

- SBA Credit Union - Central Minnesota Credit Union
- SBA Small Lender - Maple Bank
- SBA Medium Lender - BankVista
- SBA Large Lender - KleinBank
- SBA National Large Lender - Wells Fargo Bank, National Association
- SBA Third Party Lender - North American Banking Company
- SBA Export Programs Lender - Platinum Bank
- SBA Certified Development Company (Job Creation) - SPEDCO
- SBA Certified Development Company (Loans and dollars) - Minnesota Business Finance Corporation
- SBA Women Business Center - WomenVenture
- SBA Community Lender - Woodlands National Bank

SBA's District Director will present the awards at the 4th Annual Lenders Conference at the Marriot Northwest in Brooklyn Park, MN tomorrow.

Data obtained for the 4th Annual Minnesota SBA Lender Awards was taken from the Small Business Administration's Minnesota District Office loan volume dashboard. Loan information was collected from July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 with awards based on number of guaranteed approved loans. The categories of "*large, medium and small*" lenders were obtained from the 2016 Minnesota Bankers Association Bank Directory, based on the assets of the lender.

ABOUT THE U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 as an independent agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, preserve free competitive enterprise and maintain and strengthen the nation's overall economy. Its mission remains to help Americans start, build and grow businesses. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, the SBA serves people in 68 districts throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. For more information on SBA programs and services in Wisconsin, go to www.sba.gov/mn.