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WBD Welcomes John Schmitz to the Elite Lender Club

Local banker leads community efforts to support small business

[WBD Inc.](#) annually honors its top lending partners lenders from across Wisconsin, Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan for their success in helping small business get the financing they need to grow, create jobs and build communities. This year WBD is pleased to recognize the efforts of John Schmitz, of Citizens Bank in Waukesha.

"WBD has helped thousands of businesses and worked with hundreds of banks and lenders, but those who earn their way to being WBD Elite Lenders have shown a consistent dedication to serving the best interests of the businesses they work with by utilizing the 504 program," explained WBD CEO Dan Schneider.

John has collaborated with WBD 11 times, since 2009 to help businesses access the long-term, low rate, fixed financing available by utilizing the SBA 504 program. His efforts have secured over \$15,000,000 in total project financing for these local businesses. These businesses, spread over four counties, have already created over 80 new jobs, with more planned in the future.

John is the only banker joining the exclusive Elite Lenders' Club in 2018. Elite Lenders have partnered with WBD at least 10 times. Mr. Schmitz will be the 21st Elite Lending Partner.

"I have had the pleasure working with John and his customers on several projects over the last few years. John is a banker who always looks out for what is best for his customer and offers them the best financing structure to meet their individual needs," commented WBD Vice President and Loan Officer, Steve Kohl.

WBD partners with local lenders 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 a top SBA Certified Development Company (CDC) in the Midwest and finished 2018 ranked #9 of 219 active CDCs in the nation. Every business served by WBD is done in conjunction with a local lender.

Since 1981, WBD, Inc. has been collaborating with financial institutions to provide access to capital to help small businesses grow and keep our economy strong. As a CDC, 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 that have created more than 66,000 jobs statewide.

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