



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The City of Wausau acknowledges Manufacturing and Small Business Months**

The City of Wausau has declared November as Small Business Month in the City. October was National Manufacturing Month and November is National Small Business Month- so it is a fitting time to reflect on some of the positive contributions that the City has made to employer and entrepreneurial growth in our City.

The Wausau region leads the State in wage and job growth, recently Area Development Magazine, a respected publication for site selection, ranked the Wausau region #41 out of the 394 metro areas nationally, #8 among smaller metro areas, and #1 in Wisconsin. The Kaufmann Foundation which tracks startup growth, noted that Wausau is #2 in Wisconsin for startup jobs and Smart Asset Magazine ranked the Wausau region #23 Best Place to Work in Manufacturing nationally. Earlier this year Time Magazine referred to our region as 'middle class paradise' noting research by the Pew Research Trust that Wausau had the highest percentage of middle class income nationally.

Our region is strong and the City leads the region with many of our manufacturers, large and small, recently expanding. The City has used Tax Increment Financing (TIF) to directly support manufacturing job growth- to date over 700 local manufacturing jobs are directly tied to the City's incentives. In the past year we saw major expansions which involved the City's direct assistance at Linetec, Eastbay's warehousing operation, JARP Products, Composite Envisions and Wausau Coated. All of our current manufacturers using TIF loans have met or exceeded their job creation commitments.

The City has also used our Commercial Rehabilitation, Small Business, and Micro Loan Funds to support a variety of small businesses throughout the City. Over the past 10+ years the City has made over \$3mil in loans to diverse businesses who have led expansions, renovated properties and created jobs in our City including: Red Eye Brewing, Dietary Pros, Kocourek Chevrolet, Diamond Showcase, Loppnow's, The Chatterbox, Bull Falls Brewery, Campbell Haines Menswear, Sheppard and Schaller, The Glass Hat, Lil' Ole Winemaker, Compass Properties, Runkel Abstract, Thrive Foodery, Prosthetic Orthotic Center, Zillman's Meat Market, Voss Photography, Back When Café, Thunder Lube, Wausau World Market, RMM Solutions, and Downtown Grocery- just to name a few great businesses.

The City's Entrepreneurial and Education Center (EEC), located in the Business Campus, has assisted at least 144 entrepreneurs through startup bootcamps since its creation. In 2015 alone



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the EEC assisted 18 startup businesses who are now established in the region, over the years some famous local businesses which started in the incubator include Resilient Technology, Sweet Lola's Cupcakes, Advantage Insurance, Integra Tool, Condition One, Five Koshas Yoga Studio, Patina's Coffee, Kim's B.S. Sauce, Fat Man's BBQ Sauce, Fat Joe's Pizza, and Floorology.