



For Immediate Release  
Contact: David Callender  
608.210.6706  
[david.callender@wedc.org](mailto:david.callender@wedc.org)

## **25 businesses named finalists for 2019 MARKETPLACE Governor's Awards**

*Top minority, woman, and veteran-owned businesses announced October 24<sup>th</sup>.*

**MADISON, WI. Sept. 24, 2019**– Twenty-five Wisconsin companies from 12 cities have been named finalists for the 2019 MARKETPLACE Governor's Awards, which honor outstanding Wisconsin businesses owned by minorities, women and service-disabled veterans.

More than 150 nominations were received this year recognizing the achievements of Wisconsin businesses of all sizes and industries. Winners will be announced at a breakfast Thursday, Oct. 24, at MARKETPLACE 2019, the Governor's Conference on Diverse Business Development. The event will be held at the Potawatomi Hotel and Conference Center in Milwaukee with the support of more than 25 sponsors, including Keystone Sponsor U.S. Bank and Governor's Award Breakfast Sponsor Milwaukee Business Journal.

Businesses are being honored in two main categories: Outstanding Business Award, which recognizes established businesses that have demonstrated the capacity to grow and have plans for continued expansion; and the Rising Star Award, which honors businesses established after 2015 that have demonstrated strong growth potential.

Awards are given to certified minority-owned business enterprises (MBE), woman-owned business enterprises (WBE) and service-disabled veteran businesses (SDVB).

Certification programs included in the awards are the Wisconsin Department of Administration's MBE, WBE and SDVB certifications; the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification; the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) certification; the North Central Minority Supplier Development Council certification; and the Women's Business Enterprise National Council certification.

***The finalists with more than 25 employees in the Outstanding Large Business Award category for MBE, WBE or SDVB businesses are:***

Amigo Construction LLC - Cambridge  
Coakley Brothers and Brothers Interiors - Milwaukee  
Greenfire Management - Milwaukee  
JCP Construction LLC - Milwaukee  
JT Engineering Inc. - Hobart  
RINKA Inc. – Milwaukee  
Security Officer Services Inc. – Milwaukee

**THINK·MAKE·HAPPEN<sup>SM</sup>**

**The finalists with 25 or fewer employees in the Outstanding Small Business Award category for MBE, WBE or SDVB businesses are:**

AdBidtise LLC – Milwaukee  
DI and Associates Inc. – Madison  
Nagel Architects LLC – Elm Grove  
PeroDigm Design Studio LLC – Cambridge  
Prism Technical Management & Marketing Services LLC – Milwaukee  
Red Shoes Inc. – Appleton  
Terra Venture Advisors LLC – Elm Grove  
Thompson & Associates Wetland Services LLC – South Milwaukee  
Your Personal Gardener LLC – Mukwonago

**The finalists for the Rising Star Award category for MBE WBE, or SDVB businesses (established since 2015) are:**

Dear Management – Pleasant Prairie  
DK-39 Management and Consulting LLC – Middleton  
Genesis Health Consulting LLC – Milwaukee  
Helianthus LLC - Milwaukee  
Forte Investigations LLC dba Justice Support – Fond du Lac  
LEDESENS LLC dba Safelumin – Oconomowoc  
MAID in Lake Geneva Inc. – Lake Geneva  
Reach Out Agency LLC – Milwaukee  
Saving Ourselves LLC – Milwaukee

Award finalists will benefit from recognition at the event and through media promotion.

MARKETPLACE 2019, which takes place Oct. 23-24, is the premier business capacity-building conference of the year for minority-, woman- and veteran-owned businesses pursuing contracts with state, federal and local agencies as well as corporations.

For 38 years, the conference has brought together businesses, agencies and business development resources to create new opportunities for State of Wisconsin–certified companies. Close to 90 exhibitors, including lenders, business resources, certifying agencies and businesses, will be featured in the MARKETPLACE Expo Hall on Oct. 24.

The individual cost is \$70 for both days, with a \$20 additional fee for the Oct. 23 evening reception. Discounts are available for minority-, woman- and veteran-owned businesses. Buyers and supplier diversity managers from government agencies and private corporations attending to meet potential suppliers can register at no charge.

Registration and detailed information are available at [www.MarketplaceWisconsin.com](http://www.MarketplaceWisconsin.com).

###

**About the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation**

The Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) leads economic development efforts for the state by advancing and maximizing opportunities in Wisconsin for businesses, communities and people to thrive in a globally competitive environment. Working with more than

**THINK·MAKE·HAPPEN.**

600 regional and local partners, WEDC develops and delivers solutions representative of a highly responsive and coordinated economic development network. Visit [wedc.org](http://wedc.org) or follow WEDC on Twitter @wedcnews to learn more.

**THINK·MAKE·HAPPEN.**