

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **SBA Administrator Honors Nation's Top Businesses**

*Chadron's winner and other winners to be formally recognized in Washington, D.C.*

**CHADRON, NE, March, 31, 2017:** Chadron State College's Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC) Team, led by Gary Dusek, head business consultant, submitted TWO nominations, one to the NBDC and one to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) for Cody and Chrystal Brooks, owners of White River Feed, L.L.C., of Chadron. Both the NBDC Award and the SBA Award are statewide honors for a successful Chadron business that received business consulting assistance by the NBDC at Chadron State College. The NBDC at Chadron State College is a resource partner of the SBA.

The Brooks were selected as top winners for both of the statewide awards which are:

- Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC) Award for 2016 Champion of Small Business
- Small Business Administration (SBA) Award for 2017 Nebraska State Small Business Person of the Year.

The Brooks are now competing with 54 Small Business Person of the Year state and territorial winners for the SBA's 2017 National Small Business Person of the Year.

The Chadron Chamber of Commerce also recently honored Cody and Chrystal Brooks, owners of White River Feed, L.L.C., of Chadron with their top award: Chadron Chamber of Commerce's Large Business of the Year.

Cody Brooks started his relationship with NBDC at Chadron State College in 2012 when he and his partner needed help with a business plan and business advice from the NBDC Team for the purpose of purchasing White River Feed. Other Northwest Nebraska area startup or existing business owners can read about the NBDC at Chadron State College and sign up as a client at [www.csc.edu/nbdc](http://www.csc.edu/nbdc).

On March 9, 2017, President Trump's new cabinet member, Linda McMahon, administrator of the SBA, the federal department in charge of providing small businesses with loans and support, sent a letter to Cody Brooks and Chrystal Brooks, owners of White River Feed, L.L.C., in

Chadron, informing them that they each had been selected by the U. S. Small Business Administration as the SBA's 2017 Nebraska State Small Business Person of the Year.

The SBA letter said that this award is based on their hard work, innovative ideas, and dedication to their employees and community. They have built an outstanding business that has strengthened Nebraska's economy. The SBA is pleased to celebrate their achievements and recognize their roles in driving our nation's economic growth.

Each year since 1993, the President has issued a proclamation declaring National Small Business Week. On April 30-May 1, there will be a celebration with all state winners at a special ceremony in our nation's capitol. McMahan said she looks forward to meeting Cody and Chrystal Brooks and looks forward to learning more about their important work. Congratulations were expressed to the Brooks on a well-deserved honor.

"More than half of all Americans either own or work for a small business, and they create about two out of three net new jobs in the U.S. each year. I couldn't be prouder of all the awardees this year—they are working to grow small businesses, create 21st Century jobs, drive innovation, and increase America's global competitiveness. It is an honor during National Small Business Week to honor and celebrate their hard work and success," McMahan said.

Leon Milobar, Nebraska district director of the SBA, called Gary Dusek, head business consultant of the Nebraska Business Development Center (NBDC) at Chadron State College to confirm the 2017 Nebraska State Small Business Person of the Year (SBA Award) being awarded to Cody and Chrystal Brooks, owners of White River Feed, L.L.C. Leon said there would be an SBA presentation of the SBA Award in Chadron sometime in May or June of 2017.

The Nebraska Senators, including Senator Tom Brewer, District 43, were informed by Leon Milobar when he announced the SBA Award for 2017 Nebraska State Small Business Person of the Year being awarded to Cody and Chrystal Brooks of White River Feed, L.L.C., during the NBDC Awards Luncheon at the Nebraska Capitol in Lincoln on March 17, 2017.

Read more about the SBA Awardees at: <https://www.sba.gov/content/sba-administrator-announces-national-small-business-week-awardees-3>

Read more about National Small Business Week, April 30-May 6, 2017, at <https://www.sba.gov/node/1549642> and <https://www.sba.gov/nsbw/nsbw>.