

## **NEWS RELEASE**

June 12, 1998

For Immediate Release

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### **LOCAL BUSINESS RECEIVES ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD DURING NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK**

United Packaging, Inc (UPI) was recently recognized during Small Business Week as an outstanding small manufacturing business by the Region 10, Small Business Development center.

Brad Smith and Doug Mickelson are co-owners of the industrial packaging company. UPI specializes in the design and manufacture of wood crates, boxes, pallets, skids and reels for original equipment manufacturers (OEM). UPI also designs and manufactures sales sample cases and covers for the window and door industry. Other products of UPI include store fixtures, large fruit and vegetable crates and bed frames.

The company operates a 35,000 square foot facility in Peterson, MN, which is 35 miles southeast of Rochester, MN. UPI currently employs 20 full time employees.

Brad Smith, President and Co-Owner stated, "the community's willingness to help and their honesty was crucial in getting the business established and will be vital to the company's future growth."

Doug Mickelson, Vice President and Co-Owner stated, "our reason for locating in Peterson was the close proximity to our customer base." Despite a few unanticipated problems, the company had an excellent first year and the future looks very promising.

The recognition award honors excellence in entrepreneurship and was presented to United Packaging, Inc. for their determination and willingness to develop a plan for their success. The business was able to utilize the resources available in the community to establish their business, create jobs and support the economic viability of rural Minnesota.