

St. James native's business, UPI, receives award for Entrepreneurship during National Small Business Week

Brad Smith and Doug Mickelson, co-owners of United Packaging, Inc. (UPI) located in Peterson, were recognized during Small Business Week. They received the Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award from the Region 10, Small Business Development Center for their determination and willingness to develop a plan for the success of their outstanding small manufacturing business. UPI was able to utilize the resources available in the community to establish their business, create jobs and support the economic viability of rural Minnesota.

UPI specializes in the design and manufacture of wood crates, boxes, pallets, skids and reels for the lawn and garden industry, appliance, recreational vehicle, wire and cable producers and original equipment manufacturers (OEM).

The company also designs and manufactures sales sample cases and covers for the window and door industry. Other products include store fixtures, large fruit and vegetable crates and bed frames.

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

Smith and Mickelson, along



Former St. James resident, Doug Mickelson (right), and Brad Smith proudly display the Excellence in Entrepreneurship award, which they received recently from the Region 10 Small Business Development Center.

with their management team, excellent job of growing their company by providing excellent service to their customers. Doug Mickelson is a 1964

graduate of St. James High School. He is Martha Mickelson son and Don Mickelson's brother.