



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**IOWA CITY BUSINESS CHOSEN FOR AMERICA'S SBDC IOWA AWARD**

***Dumpling Darling chosen as Small Business of the Month***

AMES, Iowa – America's SBDC Iowa is pleased to announce that Lesley Triplett, owner, Dumpling Darling, Iowa City, is the winner of the SBDC's Business of the Month Award.

Scott Swenson, regional director of the Kirkwood Community College SBDC, Marion says, "Lesley has been a perfect example of how to take an idea from concept with a very smart approach to development. She developed her customer base organically and used that market experience to interact, learn, and create a proven and validated business model. It was customer discovery at its best and now her business is a blossoming success."

Dumpling Darling, which opened in February 2015, started small, selling its delicious dumplings at farmers' markets. Demand for dumplings soon escalated and the company now has two restaurants, one in Iowa City and the other in Cedar Rapids, plus it sells dumplings in ten stores and also does catering. Lesley is passionate about her craft and uses customer input to come up with new, inspired dumpling creations every week.

Just recently, Dumpling Darling took 1<sup>st</sup> place in the People's Choice category for [Top Chef: Downtown Iowa City](#), proving her growing popularity in the region.

For more information on Dumpling Darling, visit its website at <http://dumplingdarling.com> or its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ICDumplingDarling>.

The SBDC Business of the Month Award will be presented to Lesley by SBDC Regional Director Scott Swenson, who nominated the business for the award.

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Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration, America's SBDC Iowa has 15 regional assistance centers located strategically across the state. Since program inception in 1981, the SBDC has helped hundreds of thousands of Iowa businesses and entrepreneurs through no fee, confidential, customized, professional business counseling and practical, affordable training workshops.

For more information on America's SBDC Iowa programs or services, call (515) 294-2030 or visit [www.iowasbdc.org](http://www.iowasbdc.org).

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