



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**ALGONA BUSINESS CHOSEN FOR STATEWIDE SBDC AWARD**

***The Chocolate Season chosen for Small Business of the Month Award***

AMES, Iowa – America's SBDC Iowa (SBDC) is pleased to announce that Erika Jensen, owner of The Chocolate Season in Algona, is the winner of the SBDC's statewide Business of the Month Award.

Kelly McCarty, regional director of the Northwest Iowa SBDC, Spencer, which is hosted by Iowa Lakes Community College, says, "Erika has shown determination and dedication in starting and developing her business from an online business in Omaha, Nebraska to a flourishing storefront in Algona, Iowa. She is very involved in her community and is an inspirational mentor to other young women starting businesses. I'm very lucky to have assisted her and am extremely proud of all she has accomplished."

The Chocolate Season is a confiserie and dessert café located in Algona, Iowa that specializes in many European treats and some favorites from North America. Its handcrafted, fresh desserts and confections, including fine chocolates, truffles, artisan barks, and baked goods, are crafted with the utmost care. These desserts and confections are sold in the store, by phone, and online, plus they can be shipped in beautiful gift boxes. The owner is always willing and excited to create something unique for any customer. In addition to its wonderful sweets, The Chocolate Season serves tasty lunches and non-alcoholic beverages Monday through Saturday.

For more information on Erika's business, visit <http://www.thechocolateseason.com> or <https://www.facebook.com/thechocolateseason>.

The SBDC Business of the Month Award will be presented to Erika by SBDC Regional Director Kelly McCarty, who nominated her 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), <https://www.facebook.com/AmericasSBDCIowa>, or <https://twitter.com/IowaSBDC>.

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