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# Announcing 2016 Industry and Community Leader Award – Jennifer Smith

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This week is National Business Week and the Twin Cities is in celebration of the Champions of Business Awards! Every year since 1963, the U.S. Small Business Administration has hosted National Small Business week to recognize the critical contributions of America’s entrepreneurs and small business owners. In Minnesota alone, there are nearly 500,000 small businesses, employing more than 1.2 million workers. We are pleased to announce that Jennifer Smith, our CEO and President of **Innovative Office Solutions** (<https://www.innovativeos.com>) was awarded the 2016 Industry and Community Leader Award!



Jennifer founded **Innovative Office Solutions** (<https://www.innovativeos.com/>) in 2001 and has grown the company to be the largest independent office products company in the Midwest and one of the largest in the nation. Employees are guided by a shared vision, set of core values and a brand promise that sets the tone for all interactions and has helped Innovative be named on the “100 Best Companies to Work For” by the Minnesota Business Journal every year since its inception. Jennifer’s progressive thinking extends beyond her own business as a member of the Forum for the Women’s Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC), serving on the Board for the Committee of 200 as their Membership co-chair and being on the Dealer Advisory Board of Essendant. Jennifer is also dedicated to giving back, recently making a trip to Africa as part of Opportunity International, a nonprofit that provides small business loans, savings, insurance and training to more than five million people working their way out of poverty in a developing world. She also helped start a nonprofit, the InSports Foundation, an organization with a mission to help underprivileged kids participate in sports.

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## About Bridget

Life is a beautiful gift, so laugh, love and make everyday a new adventure. My true passion is to inspire all those around me. One smile can go a long way....

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