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**NORTHWEST ILLINOIS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
ANNOUNCES NEW GENZ FUND AWARD FOR GALENA MILL AND STEEL**

HANOVER, ILLINOIS - Northwest Illinois Economic Development (NWILED), along with UMB Bank, has announced the presentation of the 12th Genz Small Business Development Fund Award to Galena Mill and Steel of Galena, Illinois. The check for \$13,307.98 from the Genz Small Business Development Fund was issued to owner Ryan McClain on Jan. 7, 2026, pushing disbursements from the fund to over \$100,000!

Galena Mill and Steel designs and fabricates custom staircases, railings, and architectural metalwork for homes and businesses across the tri-state area and the greater Midwest. Their focus is on precision craftsmanship and durable materials to ensure every project is both functional and visually striking. The company recently purchased a new trailer with the award funds and had a custom advertising wrap mounted on its panels.

"We are a custom job shop," said McClain. "Almost everything we make is one-of-a-kind. This trailer will help us deliver our unique products to our clients without relying on shipping companies."

On hand to congratulate Ryan were his wife Sabrina, members of the NWILED staff and board, as well as other supporters.

"NWILED has been working with Galena Mill and Steel for the past several years, and an ongoing pain point for them has been logistics," said David Schmit, NWILED Regional Director. "This trailer will resolve much of this for them, and with its advertising wrap will serve as a moving billboard for both Galena Mill and Steel and Ryan and Sabrina's other business Lumbersnacks BBQ."

Galena Mill and Steel is open by appointment and is located at 131 S Water Street in Galena, IL 61036. Interested people with questions can email McClain at galenamillandsteel@gmail.com. Their web address is www.GalenaMillandSteel.com and they also have an active Facebook page.

ABOUT THE GENZ SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND:

Established in 2020, the Genz Small Business Development Fund was formed by the late John "Jack" Genz of Galena to help retailers, small manufacturers, wholesalers and hospitality industry genres, along with farmers and food processors in the Galena Trade Area. It can also be used to help fund capital projects, to purchase an existing business or for startup and pilot projects. The fund is administered by UMB Bank and is marketed by Northwest Illinois Economic Development. Since first awarded in 2020 a total of \$110,979 has now been dispersed through the fund.

ABOUT NWILED:

Northwest Illinois Economic Development was created by the Jo-Carroll Energy Board of Directors to spearhead economic development structures, funding and progress in Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside counties in Northwest Illinois. Now in its 17th year of successful service, NWILED continues to be a regional development entity concentrating on growing the economy and public/private partnerships.

NWILED promotes economic development by fostering business growth and assisting expanding and relocating businesses. The organization aids in determining these needs for growth with cooperation from government and business partners.

NWILED encourages entrepreneurs by assisting with access to resources to begin and grow their businesses and employs all available resources to create a welcoming business environment, aligning the skills of the available workforce with the needs of businesses, and building political and economic capital.

NWILED's commitment to success also produces programs, ventures and events that nurture educational business growth and overall business community involvement.