

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

*Iowa microbrewery wins Gold at the Great American Beer Festival® 2014. West O Beer's CocO™ Stout bests 63 other entries in the Sweet and Cream Stout category.*



October 10, 2014

In just their first year of entering, the West O Beer company located in West Okoboji, Iowa has captured a gold medal in the prestigious Great American Beer Festival® in Denver, Colorado. Head brewer Karl Schmitz created his own version of a sweet stout, a personal favorite, while integrating elements of a home-brew recipe used by owners Matt and Michaela Matthiesen. They received word on Saturday, October 5, 2014 that their entry, West O CocO™ Stout, won the Gold Medal over 63 other entries in the Sweet or Cream Stout category.

Schmitz says "The GABF is one of the biggest beer competitions in the United States. 268 medals were given out of 5507 entries." Matt Matthiesen adds "Our philosophy has always been to 'Brew Good Beer' and we're honored to receive this recognition from the industry, from experts, and from our peers. It's a huge boost for our marketing of CocO Stout, but it's also a big win for Iowa craft beer as a whole." One other Iowa brewery joined West O in the GABF winners' circle – Lion Bridge Brewing of Cedar Rapids in the English-Style Mild Ale category.

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**About West O Beer:**

West O Beer is a 6,000 square foot craft microbrewery located just south of West Okoboji Lake in the city of West Okoboji, Iowa in Dickinson County. Beer is available in pints and half-gallon growlers through their 1,800 square foot tasting room, which features bar, table, and sofa seating in a casual atmosphere. Kegs and bottles are available through numerous retail outlets in Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota.

**About West O CocO™ Stout:**

Real cocoa nibs, bourbon vanilla beans, imported sugar, and caramel all combine for a complex, yet balanced milk stout. There is a mild chocolate flavor with hints of vanilla, oats, and subtle coffee. West O CocO™ Stout is currently available on tap in restaurants and bars, and is scheduled for bottle distribution in mid-November 2014.

**Contact Information:**

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