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## Discover Peoria Announce Triple Dipple's as a winner of the Illinois Office of Tourism's Makers in the Illinois Made Program

The Chillicothe based business is a part of Discover Peoria's Black-Owned Peoria Project.

**Peoria, IL-** The Peoria Area Convention and Visitors Bureau (Discover Peoria) and the Illinois Office of Tourism (IOT) are excited to announce that **Triple Dipple's Treats and Delicacies has been selected to be recognized in IOT's Makers in the Illinois Made Program**.

IOT announced this week that 31 new small businesses, or 'makers', have been recognized by the Illinois Made program. Illinois Made inspires locals and visitors to discover hidden gems offering unique products, stories and experience all around the state.

"Supporting small businesses across our state and in central Illinois is incredibly important, especially right now," said **JD Dalfonso, President/CEO of Discover Peoria.** "Triple Dipple's is a brilliant business and central Illinois should be incredibly proud of this recognition that comes with being an Illinois Made maker."

"It means a tremendous amount to, not only me personally, but to our business to have Discover Peoria nominate us and then have been selected as an Illinois Made maker", said **Harreld Webster, Owner and Chief Baker of Triple Dipple's**. "We are so grateful that people like and support our cheesecakes and I believe this just shows how much our customers support and love us."

Triple Dipple's was born out of the desire to satisfy a sweet tooth and with what the grocery stores were offering, Webster and his family decided to just start making their own. Since then, Triple Dipple's has grown to include a variety of delicious cheesecakes, cookies, pies, brownies, cakes and more, the Sweet Tater Cheesecake being one of its best sellers.

"Harreld is a cheesecake artisan and exemplifies the ability to turn a dream into a successful business," said **Amanda Beadles, Director of Economic Development for the City of Chillicothe**. "Our community is proud that Harreld chose Historic Downtown Chillicothe as its home for Triple Dipple's one-of-a-kind experience. Our unique local businesses make Chillicothe, Illinois, a destination."

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"Our new class of makers is a remarkable reflection of the multicultural diversity found all around Illinois," said **Karla Flannery, Deputy Director of the Illinois Office of Tourism**. "We are honored to welcome such a talented group of makers that are destinations within their communities and we look forward to highlighting their craft, history and unique experience to locals and visitors alike."

In October, Discover Peoria launched its new project, <u>Black-Owned Peoria</u>, which features 21 Black-owned businesses located in central Illinois that specialize in the hospitality/tourism industry. Triple Dipple's is one of those 21 businesses and will continue to be featured indefinitely as part of the project.

"I love baking cheesecakes but I do it for the community and without their support, we wouldn't be here today," said Webster.

Launched in 2016, Illinois Made spotlights the people, products and experiences authentic to Illinois and inspires residents and visitors to explore these iconic destinations when traveling the state, or in their own backyard. The program, which currently features over 175 makers, helps drive foot traffic into local businesses around the state.

For images of the new Illinois Made makers click <u>here</u>. To learn more about Illinois Made visit: <u>EnjoyIllinois.com/IllinoisMade</u>.

To view Triple Dipple's feature in Discover Peoria's Black-Owned Peoria project visit: <u>DiscoverPeoria.com/black-owned-peoria/triple-dipples-treats-and-delicacies</u>.

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