



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

RBTC announces nominees for annual TechNite awards ceremony

Roanoke, Virginia, April 7, 2016: The Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council is pleased to announce the nominees for its 17th annual TechNite awards banquet, to be held at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center on April 22, 2016.

Nominations have been accepted for awards in six categories: STEM-H Educator, Entrepreneur, Innovator, Regional Leadership, and Rising Star. Several dozen excellent candidates were nominated (*a list of the top ten nominees for each category has been attached in a separate document*).

A classified committee of RBTC members narrowed finalists for each award. The representatives were also charged with naming the nominees for two additional awards, the People's Choice Award and the Ruby Award.

The People's Choice Award will be voted on electronically before the festivities and announced during the awards banquet. The Ruby Award is bestowed to an outstanding member who has proved to be a brilliant and valuable asset to the Roanoke-Blacksburg region.

TechNite is an annual celebration of the Roanoke-Blacksburg region's technology community. Less than 100 tickets remain for the 2016 event and it is expected to be the largest TechNite in its history.

This year's Master of Ceremonies will be Anthony Quinn Robinson. He is the Director of Marketing for NewCity Media, Inc. in Blacksburg, where they recently celebrated 20 years of business. He has also managed the Blacksburg Comedy Club for over 12 years, and worked with performers such as, Natasha Leggero, and Kirk Fox. Along with ASME Relay for Life and other university-sponsored charities, Anthony founded the Laughter for Love benefit dedicated to the families of the April 16th tragedy at Virginia Tech.

Jonathan Hagmaier, local entrepreneur and long-time supporter of the RBTC, will be the special guest speaker for TechNite 2016. Jonathan launched his first company, Interactive Achievement in 2006 to help teachers and administrators assess and improve student performance. A dynamic leader, Jonathan is known for his dedication to the core values of being Honorable, Unselfish and Generous (H.U.G.), which guide his vision in business and in life. Earlier this year, Interactive Achievement was acquired by PowerSchool Group LLC.

After the awards are presented, attendees will be invited to attend an after party held at the Center in the Square atrium and pinball museum.

More information and a video from TechNite 2015 can be found online at <http://www.RBTCtechnite.com>

ABOUT THE ROANOKE-BLACKSBURG TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL (RBTC)

The Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council is a non-profit member-driven association of businesses and organizations in the greater Roanoke-Blacksburg region, working together to promote the growth and success of the region's technology community, develop and educate thought-leaders, mentors and the technology workforce, and improve access to talent. To learn more, please visit <http://www.thetechnologycouncil.com>.

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