



16th annual RBTC TechNite awards ceremony winners announced

Roanoke, Virginia, May 9, 2015: The Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council was pleased to honor a talented group of companies and individuals at its annual TechNite awards banquet, which was held at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center on May 8, 2015.

Nominations were accepted for six awards: STEM Educator, Entrepreneur, Innovator, Regional Leadership, and Rising Star. There were 67 nominees collectively that were narrowed down to a group of finalists and winners by a confidential committee of RBTC members. The committee was also charged with naming the nominees for the People's Choice Award, as well as the nominees and winner of the Ruby Award, which recognizes a brilliant and valuable asset to the Roanoke-Blacksburg region.

The RBTC was honored to present the following awards:

People's Choice: Card Isle

STEM Educator: Michael Collver (Blacksburg High School), Darrell Roberts (Christiansburg High School), Skip Larrington (Hidden Valley High School)

Entrepreneur: Jonathan Hagmaier, Interactive Achievement

Innovator: Rafael Davalos, Virginia Tech

Regional Leadership: Dr. Michael Friedlander

Rising Star: ORIGO

Ruby Award: Doug Juanarena, Rackspace

The RBTC also inducted two new members into its Technology Hall of Fame during the event: Dr. Mary Miller, former RBTC president and current president and founder of IDD, Inc., and Leon Harris, president of Keltech, Inc.

TechNite is an annual celebration of the Roanoke - Blacksburg region's technology community. Almost 700 tickets were purchased for the 2015 event, which featured Karen McNew McGuire, Senior Communications Consultant for Carilion Clinic, as the Master of Ceremonies and special guest speaker Dr. Timothy Sands, president of Virginia Tech.

After the awards are presented, attendees were invited to attend an after party held at the Science Museum of Western Virginia.

More information and a video from TechNite 2015 can be found online at <http://www.RBCTechNite.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 sector. Its membership includes more than 230 organizations. The RBTC is the leading resource for the region's growth and success. It exists to connect and unite 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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