



EMBARGOED until May 3, 2018 9:00pm EST

19th annual RBTC TechNite awards ceremony recipients announced

Blacksburg, Virginia, May 3, 2018: The Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council was pleased to honor a talented group of companies and individuals at its annual TechNite awards banquet held, for the first time in the history of the event, in the New River Valley at the Inn at Virginia Tech, on May 3, 2018.

Nominations were accepted for seven award categories: STEM-H Educator, Regional Go-To-Geek, Rising Star, Entrepreneur of the Year, Innovator of the Year, Regional Leadership, and Company of the Year. Nominees were narrowed down to a subset of finalists in each category, from which award recipients were selected. This year the awards committee chose to recognize a recipient of the Ruby Award, an occasional award that recognizes a brilliant and valuable asset to the Roanoke-Blacksburg region. The committee also added a new award, the Regional Connector, which recognizes an individual that uses their networks to bring together people from across the region.

The RBTC was pleased to recognize the following award recipients:

STEM-H Educator: Rick Weaver, *Montgomery County Public School System* and John Warf, *Burton Center for the Arts and Technology*

Regional Go-To-Geek: Darrell Little, *Noke Codes | Carilion Clinic*

Regional Connector: Jeff Smith, *Voltage Leadership Consulting*

Rising Star: Securitec Screening Solutions

Entrepreneur of the Year: Steve Critchfield, *MOVA*

Innovator of the Year: Deb Kelly, *VTCRI*

Regional Leadership: Kevin Bloomfield, *Bloomfield Partners*

Company of the Year: TORC Robotics

Ruby Award: Victor Iannello, *Radiant Physics*

The RBTC also inducted a new member into its Technology Hall of Fame during the event: Russ Ellis, President of *Common Wealth Growth Group*, a venture capital investment firm founded in Roanoke. In addition to the awards presentation, the evening was highlighted by the formal announcement of the second RAMP-in-Residence Cohort companies.

TechNite is an annual celebration of the Roanoke - Blacksburg region's technology community. The event featured Elizabeth Hord, the Senior Relationship Manager for *VOLATIA Language Network*, a member of the inaugural RAMP-in-Residence Cohort, as the Master of Ceremonies and special guest speaker Senator Mark Warner, a proponent for innovation and entrepreneurship within the technology community.

After the awards were presented, guests were invited to attend the 6th annual TechNite After Party on the Great Lawn at the Inn at Virginia Tech which featured a Kentucky Derby theme.

More information from TechNite 2018 can be found online at <https://rbtc.tech/technite> or on Social Media using #technite2018.

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 250 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.rbtc.tech>.

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