



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **RBTC announces nominees for annual TechNite awards ceremony**

*Roanoke, Virginia, March 29, 2017:* The Roanoke-Blacksburg Technology Council is pleased to announce the nominees for its 18<sup>th</sup> annual TechNite awards banquet, to be held at the Hotel Roanoke & Conference Center on April 21, 2017.

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 during 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. With the addition of our new CEO, Robert McAden, we anticipate that this event will sell out.

This year's Master of Ceremonies will be Caitlyn Scaggs. Caitlyn went from being a police officer to marketing professional, and ultimately the Chief Growth Officer at Polymer Solutions Incorporated (PSI). After joining the PSI team, she developed her skills as an expert 'scientist' in all things marketing, communications, and business development. She began her own marketing firm, Blue Mobius Marketing, in 2013. She is regarded as a thought-leader in social media and digital marketing strategy. Caitlyn has a passion for public speaking, writing, business development and continuous improvement.

Bonz Hart, local entrepreneur and founder of Meridium, and former RBTC President, will be the Guest Speaker for our 2017 festivities. Bonz began his career as a serial entrepreneur, consultant, and worked for software companies in the US and Canada. In 1993 Bonz founded Meridium with the vision of helping the world's asset-intensive industries through effective Asset Performance Management software and services. In September of 2016 GE Digital purchased the rest of Meridium for an enterprise value of 500 million dollars. Bonz Retired from GE/Meridium at the end of January 2017.

After the awards are presented, attendees will be invited to attend an after party held at the Science Museum of Western Virginia located in the Center in the Square.

More information and a promotional video can be found online at <https://rbtc.tech/technite>.

#### **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 <https://rbtc.tech>.

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