



NORTON VA. September 29, 2020. The Southwestern Virginia Technology Council (SWVTC) will celebrate its 21st anniversary on Thursday, October 15, 2020. This year's awards recipients will be dependent on their contribution to Innovating and Thriving IN Appalachia through the pandemic. The awards presentation will take place during the Annual Awards Banquet and Gala at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center on the campus of Virginia Highlands Community College in Abingdon, Virginia beginning at 5:00 p.m. All COVID-19 protocols will be strictly followed. For those who cannot attend in person, but would like to interact, we are offering Zoom attendance for a small fee and includes a gift. For those who would like to tune in, we are offering Facebook live attendance.

The SWVTC's event focus is Economic Development and, specifically, Innovating and Thriving IN Appalachia, across 13 counties in Virginia's great southwest region. The 2020 event will feature speakers from three of its major Economic Development Organizations.

A panel, comprised of business leaders who are Innovating and Thriving IN Appalachia, will share with the audience how it is done.

Bob Stolle, the newly appointed President of the Center for Innovative Technology, will travel from Richmond to talk about the new initiatives of his organization.

The event will feature a major announcement and new direction for the Southwestern Virginia Technology Council that will affect all 13 counties in the SWVTC's footprint area. Dinner patrons can visit exhibit booths and enjoy some networking. Some of the lead partners for the 2020 event are the Center for Innovative Technology, Crutchfield, the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center, the University of Virginia's College at Wise, the Virginia Coalfield Economic Development Authority (VCEDA), Sykes, and Wize Solutions, LLC. For more information about the event, including sponsorship and advertising opportunities, contact Esther Bolling, ebolling@swvtc.info, 276-679-7800 or register at <http://swvtc.net/tickets-sponsorships>

The Southwestern Virginia Technology Council (SWVTC) addresses the opportunities afforded by the technology sector to businesses, educational institutions, and government agencies throughout Virginia's great southwest. Organized in 1999, SWVTC's mission is to enhance the vitality and social well-being of the region through achievements in the creation and application of technology. Council members includes businesses, institutions and individuals from the counties of Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise, and Wythe, and the cities of Bristol, Galax, and Norton.

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