

Businesses Recognized for Innovation

By Carol Graham | Posted: Thursday, April 14, 2016 12:00 am

To celebrate the stars of Tri-Valley innovation, the Innovation Tri-Valley Leadership Group hosted its first annual #GameChangers Awards on March 30th.

"Every business should innovate to stay vital," said Dale Kaye, CEO of Innovation Tri-Valley (ITV) Leadership Group. "Whether you run a winery, a restaurant or a tech startup, you need to stay ahead of the curve. Honorees were selected not only for their innovative approach to business, but also for pointing to the elegant innovation ecosystem we have in the Tri-Valley."

Awardees included 10 game-changing companies from the cities of Livermore, Pleasanton, Dublin, San Ramon and Danville, along with the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, which earned the Founders Award presented by Congressman Eric Swalwell.

"For the first time, there is a parity among these five cities where great things are happening," said Swalwell. "These will be regarded as some of the greatest economic times this area has ever seen. The spirit of people in our area is, 'Keep innovating, keep evolving.' The Lawrence Livermore Lab is at the root of much of the innovation we experience in the Tri-Valley."

The Founders Award is given to a company or organization that has served as a catalyst for innovation, helped define the Tri-Valley as a technology hub, and supported the region and its initiatives.

"One of the hallmarks of the Lawrence Livermore National Lab, besides being the innovation lab - the 'new ideas' lab - was to take the long view and always be ahead of enemies of the United States," said LLNL Economic Development Director Buck Koonce, who accepted the award. "We are so lucky to work in a community that takes the long view, and works hard thinking about housing, transportation, education, and water and air quality."

Two businesses in each city earned #GameChanger awards, which were presented by that city's mayor.

Livermore Mayor John Marchand presented awards to: Topcon Positioning Systems, a world leader in precision measurement, positioning, and machine automation; and POC (Point of Care) Medical Systems, a company that created a device to detect life-threatening illnesses (like breast cancer, tuberculosis and cardiac disorders) for less than \$5 per patient.

Pleasanton Mayor Jerry Thorne presented awards to: Nuubia SF, an artisan chocolatier committed to avoiding practices that damage the earth; and Leaf Healthcare, which created a device to monitor hospitalized patients for pressure ulcers resulting from extended bed stays.

Dublin Mayor David Haubert presented awards to: CallidusCloud, a global leader in cloud-based sales, marketing, and customer-experience solutions; and iTradeNetwork, a provider of supply-chain management and intelligence solutions.

"Our bread and butter is connecting buyers and suppliers," said iTradeNetwork's Director of Operations Jim



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Congressman Eric Swalwell presents award to Buck Koonce from the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Almerico. "But the most exciting path we're taking now is our traceability, where you can go to the store, pick up a basket of strawberries and with your phone, scan the code to know when they were picked, from what farm, how long it took to get to refrigeration, then to the distributor and the store. The Bay Area is ripe for wanting to know that kind of information."

San Ramon Mayor Bill Clarkson presented awards to: FunMobility, which delivers engaging and interactive campaigns through its proprietary, mobile-first technology; and GE Global Software.

"GE offers a great example of how to stay ahead of the curve," said Kaye. "Started by Thomas Edison many, many years ago, this is a company that embraced the idea that corporate structures must evolve with technology. Now it's redefining itself as a software company with GE Digital and the GE Global Software Center."

Danville Mayor Karen Stepper presented awards to: SocialSource, developer of the first and only app (called "Phew!") that provides age-specific YouTube and web content for kids; and Choicelunch, a healthy school-lunch program offering online ordering and a mobile app to provide students with fresh fruits, vegetables and meats.

More than 100 business and city leaders attended the #GameChangers Awards, which took place at Innovate Pleasanton, 4464 Willow Road.

"Innovation Tri-Valley started as a branding effort," said Kaye. "By aligning all the assets of the Tri-Valley, we have the power of a regional economy. Showcasing innovators in the Tri-Valley, we are illustrating the amazing number of visionary companies that are impacting the way the world does business, and in the case of the national labs, protecting the world. All of our events help brand the Tri-Valley as the place for innovative companies to locate."

Addressing the #GameChangers attendees, Kaye said, "I want to thank you for thinking not as five cities, but as one amazing region."

To learn more or see upcoming events, visit www.innovationtrivalley.org.