

Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce

350 West Douglas Avenue
Wichita, Kansas 67202
www.wichitachamber.org
t: (316) 265-7771
f: (316) 265-7502



THE CHAMBER
WICHITA REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

NEWS RELEASE

Date: Feb. 14, 2017
Contact: Courtney Sendall
268-1153
csendall@wichitachamber.org

Chris Callen to be honored as Chamber's first Exceptional Young Leader

WICHITA, KS – Chris Callen, CEO of Builders Plus Construction and Grit Virtual, is the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce's first Exceptional Young Leader. He will be recognized at the annual Honors Night celebration on Tuesday, April 11.

In honor of the Chamber's Centennial year, the Exceptional Young Leader award is being added to the lineup of traditional Honors Night awards. Its purpose is to provide premiere recognition of extraordinary young talent through service to community and noteworthy accomplishments. Future recipients will have a history of demonstrated leadership within their job and philanthropic involvement.

A graduate of Maize High School and the University of Kansas, Callen assumed the role of CEO at his parents' business, Builders Plus Construction, in 2013. Since that time, the company has brought high-tech to the construction industry through the use of virtual reality, which led to the launch of a new division of Builders Plus (Grit Virtual) earlier this month. The company has seen four years of record revenue with Callen at the helm and was a 2016 Small Business Awards finalist.

An entrepreneur himself, Callen is passionate about supporting start-up companies in Wichita. When Builders Plus relocated to downtown Wichita, he dedicated 2,200 square feet of space to GroundWork – A Startup Hub for start-up companies to reside. Currently, five companies and three freelancers are utilizing the space.

In addition to his professional accolades, Chris serves the community through involvement on several nonprofit boards, including the Arthritis Foundation, Wichita Symphony Orchestra, and the Associated General Contractors of Kansas. He also acts as a mentor for the e2e Accelerator and is a member of Young Professionals of Wichita.

Formerly announced Honors Night award recipients include:

- Uncommon Citizen: Dawson Grimsley
- Spirit of Wichita: Foley Equipment Company
- Over the Years: Conco Construction and Howard + Helmer Architecture.
- Keeper of the Plains: Wichita Art Museum Art Garden.

Reservations for Honors Night may be made online. For tickets and additional information, visit wichitachamber.org/HonorsNight or call 316-268-1123.

###

The mission of the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce is to drive economic growth and community advancement in the Wichita region. Visit our website wichitachamber.org and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, YouTube, and our blog.