



**PRESS RELEASE**

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## **North Alabama Entrepreneurs Thriving, Generating Major Economic Growth for Region**

**[HUNTSVILLE, AL]** – North Alabama entrepreneurs generate major business in North Alabama, as well as create new jobs and opportunities for area residents.

“Huntsville’s entrepreneurs make our city unique,” Mayor Tommy Battle affirmed. “Our entrepreneurs have helped create new technologies, new experiences, and new legacies for generations to come. It’s important to celebrate these risk-takers and innovators.”

The Catalyst Center for Business & Entrepreneurship, as a highlight of Innovate Huntsville Week, offers the “2018 Entrepreneur Awards” on Thursday, March 1, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Campus 805, 2620 Clinton Avenue in Huntsville. This event honors the skill, courage, and determination it takes to create a business from an idea.

“Every entrepreneur, including those who have opened a lemonade stand, have faced challenges and obstacles they must overcome to be successful,” said Robert R Wilson of R2C one of 48 Entrepreneur Award nominees. “Leaving a Fortune 400 company to begin my company left several people questioning my sanity and asking how I could take such a risk with a young family at home without a steady income. My reply was, and is, simple: Risk comes in many forms.”

The Awards not only honor entrepreneurs, but highlight their importance to our region’s economy. The proof of their entrepreneurial dedication is in the numbers. Jointly these entrepreneurs account for \$77,020,941 in economic development dollars. They also employ more than 1,000 employees and represent 28 different zip codes in the Tennessee Valley. The nominees rang in all skill sets and businesses with the youngest entrepreneur being just 13 years old.

Organizers encourage all local business leaders to attend. “The Entrepreneur Awards aren’t just for aspiring business owners,” Michelle Stark, who serves on The Catalyst’s Board of Directors, said. “This event is for the community – those looking to invigorate their entrepreneurial spirit or connect with up-and-comers in area.”

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The Catalyst Center for Business & Entrepreneurship serves as a driver for economic growth and job creation in Huntsville and surrounding areas by providing support for entrepreneurs and business owners in every stage of growth. Through quality business education, personalized one-on-one coaching, and networking opportunities that build valuable business relationships, we enable entrepreneurs to get started and provide established businesses the tools they need to successfully navigate their business journey. For a full list of upcoming programs: [catalystcenter.org](http://catalystcenter.org)