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Technology council honors region's businesses

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BLACKSBURG -- The NewVa Corridor Technology Council hosted its 11th annual TechNite Awards Banquet at the Inn at Virginia Tech on Wednesday to bring together regional business leaders and honor their work.

The council presents the awards to raise awareness of small technology companies in the area, said Cory Donovan, the council's executive director.

Six awards were given to companies in the Roanoke and New River valleys:

Maxtena Inc., an antenna maker in Blacksburg, won the Innovation Award for devising a more efficient use for a simple product. Other finalists were DevelopEase LLC and Transecurity LLC.

David Catalano and Aaron Herrington, co-founders of Modea, a Blacksburg digital advertising and design firm, won the Entrepreneur Award for expanding the firm in the region. Marty Muscatello of CCS-Inc. and Brett Malone of TopGear Automation were finalists.

Interactive Achievement Inc., a 4-year-old company in Roanoke, won the Rising Star Award for developing software for teachers to track students on Standards of Learning requirements. Finalists were MiserWare Inc. and NetVentures Corp.

Jay Foster, owner of SoftSolutions Inc., won the NewVa Leadership Award for his devotion to raising the region's profile through Creative Class Leadership Program's 81 Reasons to Connect group. Sam English of CIE Partners and David Ayares of Revivicor Inc. were finalists.

The Educator awards went to Dale Vipperman, a Christiansburg High School science teacher, and James Irby, Montgomery County Public Schools pre-engineering teacher. Each winner was awarded \$1,000 to use technology to supplement their teaching.

NewCity, a Blacksburg-based marketing and Web design company, won the People's Choice Award, voted on by members of the technology council at the event. Other nominees were Transecurity, DevelopEase and MiserWare.

The NEWVY Award for outstanding achievement within the community went to Henry Bass, founder of Automation Creations Inc. and an officer with the U.S. Army Reserves.

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