



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce to Live Stream the 2021 Business Awards Broadcast Tonight

Cathy Hughes, NOAA, and U.S. Pharmacopeia Among this Year's Honorees

ROCKVILLE, MD: On Thursday, November 4, 2021, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) will live stream its 2021 Business Awards Broadcast. This virtual event will celebrate the best of Montgomery County's business community, with organizations and leaders receiving recognition from a variety of industries. The Business Awards Premiere will live stream on the Chamber's [Facebook Page](#) and [YouTube Channel](#) at 4:00 p.m. ET. The broadcast runs for roughly 70 minutes and will be followed by a virtual afterparty with award winners, sponsors, elected officials, MCCC Members, and guests.

This year's honorees are:

- Cathy Hughes, Founder and Chairperson, Urban One, Inc.
- The University of Maryland, *Accepted by Dr. Darryll J. Pines, President*
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), *Accepted by Dr. Rick Spinrad, NOAA Administrator*
- U.S. Pharmacopeia, *Accepted by Ronald T. Piervincenzi, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer*
- CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield
- Compost Crew
- Mitchell Wool
- Rehab 2 Perform
- Live Oak Bank
- James G. Davis Construction Corporation

Emeritus Business Leader of the Year

Cathy Hughes is the 2021 Emeritus Business Leader of the Year. She is the Founder and Chairperson for **Urban One, Inc.** This award is presented to an individual approaching or newly retired and has had a substantial impact on the way business is conducted in Metro Maryland and who has shown, through many years of active and continuing service, a true commitment to the community. This award will be presented by **BDO**.

"Urban One is proud to be a member of this business community," said Cathy Hughes. "While we are a national company with locations around the country, this is home, and we are grateful for the support and love we continue to receive right here in our own backyard. Business ownership positions so many of us to not only live our dreams but also to serve, and I am blessed to have had the opportunity, around the country and right in Montgomery County to be of service to our community for over 42 years."

Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

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Visionary of the Year

The 2021 Visionary of the Year Award goes to the **University of Maryland**. This award recognizes an individual or organization for its innovation and tremendous contributions to the County and beyond. During the live broadcast, University of Maryland President **Dr. Darryll J. Pines** will accept the award on behalf of the University.

“I am so grateful to the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce for recognizing the University of Maryland as a visionary in quantum computing and for supporting us as we work to create a vibrant ecosystem in the county and the surrounding region to support this cutting-edge field,” said Dr. Darryll J. Pines. “Through partnerships like these, our region will secure our place as the worldwide Capital of Quantum.”

This award will be presented by the **Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation (MCEDC)**.

“We’re uniquely positioned to establish a world-class quantum innovation ecosystem right here in Metro Maryland,” said **Ben Wu**, MCEDC President & CEO. “I’m pleased the Chamber is recognizing the University of Maryland, College Park with this award. It’s so important for industry, government, and academia to partner together to support the development of quantum technology. Moving forward, you’ll be hearing a lot more about quantum – and all of us working in partnership must seize our opportunity to make Montgomery County and the region a global leader in quantum innovation.”

Government Partner of the Year

The **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**, is the 2021 Government Partner of the Year. The award will be accepted by **Rick Spinrad, Ph.D.**, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator. This award recognizes a public partner who supports the mission of [GovConNet](#) and is nominated by the [GovConNet Council](#).

“NOAA is proud to accept the Government Partner of the Year award,” said Rick Spinrad, Ph.D., NOAA Administrator. “Small businesses are integral to ensuring that NOAA has the people and services on-the-ground to help us understand our weather and climate, conserve our ocean, and foster strong coastal economies for the benefit of all Americans. When small businesses succeed, NOAA and the American public succeed as well.”

This year’s award will be co-presented by **Precise Software Solutions, Inc.** and **T and T Consulting Services, Inc.**

Global Impact Award

This year, MCCC introduces a new award category: The Global Impact Award. This award recognizes an organization or individual headquartered in Montgomery County or Metro Maryland that has had a sustained and significant positive impact on national and global economic opportunity and wellbeing.

The inaugural Global Impact Award Winner is **U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP)**. Accepting on behalf of USP is Ronald T. Piervincenzi, Ph.D., USP’s Chief Executive Officer.

This award will be presented by **M&T Bank**.

Corporate Social Responsibility

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield is this year's Corporate Social Responsibility Award Winner. This award is presented to an individual or company that has demonstrated exemplary business practices, dedicated involvement, and unyielding commitment to community service and volunteer programs that enrich the lives of Metro Maryland residents.

This award will be presented by **EagleBank**.

Green Business Innovator of the Year

MCCC Member **Compost Crew** has been named this year's Green Business Innovator of the Year. This award is presented to an individual or company that is successful in business, a leader in promoting free enterprise and a competitive business climate, and actively involved in making Metro Maryland a great place to live, work, and play.

This year's award will be co-presented by **the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection and Washington Gas, a WGL Company**.

Small Business Leader of the Year

The 2021 Small Business Leader of the Year is **Mitchell Wool of The Bean Bag Deli & Catering Co**. This award is presented to a successful small business owner or manager with 500 or fewer employees whose business has experienced substantial growth and whose leadership provided a positive impact on the business community in Metro Maryland.

"Thank you to the Montgomery County Chamber for this honor," said Mitchell Wool. "As The Bean Bag Deli & Catering approaches its 45th year of business in Montgomery County, we are humbled to receive this award, which serves as validation for all of our hard work over the years. The Bean Bag has always tried to do its small part to support the people in our community. This mission has been particularly important and challenging during these pandemic times, and of course, we are grateful for all the support we have received over the last 45 years."

CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield – who is this year's Corporate Social Responsibility Award Winner - will present this award.

Emerging Business of the Year

In past years, MCCC's Business Awards Selection Committee annually selected three businesses as Verl Zanders Emerging Business of the Year Finalists. This award is presented to an emerging company on the leading edge of innovation by creating milestones in technology and/or business that has achieved enhanced earnings and contributed to Metro Maryland's reputation as an outstanding place to do business. Previous winners of this award include **Honest Tea, Sweetgreen, WeddingWire, and Hungry Harvest**.

This year, the committee selected **Rehab 2 Perform** as the 2021 Emerging Business of the Year Award Winner.

"I am incredibly humbled to have Rehab 2 Perform named as the Verl Zanders Emerging Business of the Year," said **Dr. Josh Funk, CEO/Founder of Rehab 2 Perform**. "As someone who was born and raised in Montgomery County, this award takes a whole different meaning for me. The past 18 months have been extremely challenging for myself and our team, and to receive this recognition is especially appreciated."

This year's award will be presented by **Sworakit. Gregory Coleman**, Sworakit CEO and last year's Small Business Leader of the Year, will present the award during the broadcast.

Business Partner of the Year

Live Oak Bank is the 2021 Business Partner of the Year. This awardee is nominated annually by the **MCCC GovConNet Council**. The goal of this award is to recognize a business that demonstrates excellence in subcontracting and/or supports small business to accelerate their success, and meets the mission of GovConNet, “to promote the economic impact of the federal government presence and to advocate on behalf of the contracting community for business opportunities.”

“At Live Oak Bank, we understand the importance of getting capital in the hands of small business owners as a means of fueling growth and prosperity in communities across the nation,” said **Kenneth Dodds, Government Contracting Industry Expert**, Live Oak Bank. “As the #1 SBA lender in the country by dollar amount, our lending experts work tirelessly to ensure that our customers have the proper resources to bolster their success. Live Oak is dedicated to the contracting community and continues to support the GovConNet Council, along with other knowledgeable professionals advocating for common sense Federal procurement policy.”

This year’s award is co-sponsored by **Madison Services Group, Inc.** and **PilieroMazza PLLC**.

Corporate Achievement

The 2021 Corporate Achievement Award is being awarded to **James G. Davis Construction Corporation**. This award is presented to an individual or company that demonstrates leadership, innovation, commitment, and good corporate citizenship in Metro Maryland and beyond. The awardee has set consistently high standards for financial performance, sound management, and sustained growth over a period of many years, and has made significant and lasting contributions to the local economy and the community.

This year’s award is presented by **Aronson LLC**.

“Aronson is pleased to co-sponsor this year’s Corporate Achievement Award,” said **Christopher D. Vasquez, CPA, Partner, Assurance Services**, Aronson LLC. “We relish the opportunity to celebrate those individuals who have consistently set high standards in our industry for management and growth while giving back significantly to their communities. Congratulations to all the winners!”

For a list of previous award winners and to learn more about award criteria, visit mcccmd.com/businessawards.

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About the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce

The Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce (MCCC) is a membership organization that accelerates members’ success through effective advocacy, programs, and events. Its membership includes small, medium, and large organizations representing a wide range of industries. For more information, visit www.mcccmd.com.