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Chamber announces tech council at 89th annual celebration

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Jan 24, 2024

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Ron Bunch, president and CEO of the Bowling Green Chamber of Comm
the Chamber's 89th Annual Celebration on Tuesday.

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The Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce announced the creation of a new regional technology council at its 89th annual celebration on Tuesday.

CEO Ron Bunch said the project will be a partnership with Western Kentucky University's Innovation Campus to better connect and attract emerging technology companies in the area.

“Because information technology professionals, engineers, people like that who are typically more introverted, they're not at our events,” Bunch said. “We want to create a place where they feel like they can belong and have them create (...) new products.”

Bunch said board members will soon be appointed to the council and work should begin within three months with seed money from WKU and the chamber.

Tuesday's celebration also featured awards for chamber participants recognizing their work and dedication:

- Board Volunteer of the Year – Todd Matthews, The Murphy Construction Group
- Ambassador of the Year – Tony Witty, Stifel Financial Corp.
- Chamber Volunteer of the Year – Joe Davis, A+ Properties Inc.
- Young Professional of the Year – Laura Bowles, TownePlace Suites by Marriott

Outgoing chairman Todd Matthews passed the title and gavel to Travis Keller of Independence Bank. Keller said he hopes the chamber can “keep doing what it's doing.”

“We are attracting people to this community who are difference makers, who are dreamers, who set goals and are achievers,” Keller said. “When they come into our community, we will become even stronger because of it.”

The chamber had plenty more to celebrate in the last year. Bunch said the chamber held 99 business opening or relocation celebrations and was ranked in the top 20 for economic development among communities of any size across the country for the third consecutive year by Site Selection Magazine.

Bunch added that the magazine placed the area as a top six or higher site of similarly sized communities across the country for economic development results for the 10th consecutive year.

“Economic development is absolutely a team sport, and we’re very blessed to have a city and county that work so well together,” Bunch said.

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