

Pipeline Celebrates Entrepreneurial Expression at the 11th Annual *Innovators* Gala

Pipeline announces entrepreneurial award winners and its 2018 class with over 600 entrepreneurs, investors, and entrepreneurial leaders in attendance

KANSAS CITY, MO. (Jan. 26, 2018) — The Pipeline entrepreneurial fellowship program revealed the recipients of its 2017 Pipeline awards tonight—and also unveiled its 2018 class of Pipeline Fellows at The Innovators event held in Kansas City. The event included entrepreneurs, investors, media, universities, policy leaders, and community advocates and marked the 11th year Pipeline has held its renowned celebration of Midwest entrepreneurship.

2017 AWARDS WINNERS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

ENTREPRENEURIAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

- **Nebraska Pipeline Sponsors** as the recipient of Pipeline’s Entrepreneurial Leadership Award. The named recipients are the University of Nebraska, Linseed Capital, Prairie Ventures, and Nelnet. This is awarded to a community member for their outstanding contributions to entrepreneurship and the Pipeline efforts to build a vibrant Midwest.

PIPELINE ENTREPRENEUR (MEMBER) GROWTH

- **Alfred Botchway** (Xenometrics LLC, Kansas City) and **Paul Jarrett** (Bulu Box, Lincoln, NE) tied for Pipeline Member Growth. Both Botchway and Jarrett have demonstrated growth through revenue, creation of high-salaried jobs, and new innovations last year.

PIPELINE ENTREPRENEUR (MEMBER) INSPIRATION

- **Kim Gandy** (Play-it Health, Kansas City) was honored during the final award of the night, Member Inspiration. Member Inspiration recognizes outstanding contribution by a Pipeline Member to the organization and the many peers within it.

2017 INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

- **Evan Luxon** was named the 2017 *Innovator of the Year*. *Innovator of the Year* is awarded to only one of the graduating Pipeline Fellows. The “capstone” award is based on three components—performance during the Pipeline year (scored by many presenters and experts who worked with the class), scores from retooled business plans post-Pipeline impact, and presentations given during *The Innovators* Daytime Competition.

“We are all so incredibly proud of the continued growth and leadership of our Pipeline entrepreneurs and partners,” said **Joni Cobb, Pipeline President & CEO**. “We hope that these entrepreneurs and leaders—and our night celebrating their work—inspires new generations of entrepreneurs, investors, and advocates to continue our entrepreneurial growth in the Midwest.”

The **2018 Pipeline Fellowship Class** was also announced during *The Innovators*. Pipeline Fellows are chosen for the program following an intensive application and interview process. The 2018 class is comprised of 13 entrepreneurs from five cities in the three states:

Andrew Barnell, Geneoscopy, St. Louis; **Johnna Beckham**, BOOST Apparel Group, St. Louis; **Trevor Crotts**, Buddy Brands, Wichita; **Glen Dakan**, Prestio, Kansas City; **Dennis Doerfl**, Fourstarzz Media, Lincoln; **Will Edwards**, MetKnow, St. Louis; **Colin Nabity**, LeverageRx, Omaha; **Robin Rath**, Pixel Press Technology, St. Louis; **Bryan Sapot**, SensrTrx, St. Louis; **Ben Schultz**, LaborChart, Kansas City; **Ali Schwanke**, Simple Strat, Lincoln; **Matt Sellers**, Rack Performance, Kansas City; and **Linda Van Horn**, iShare Medical, Kansas City.

“Pipeline works to ensure our Midwest entrepreneurs have a national network and a global reach,” said **Wendy Guillies, President & CEO, Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation**. “*The Innovators* event allows the community to meet with the very individuals who are working so hard to ensure we continue to lead from the Middle. We are extremely proud to be a part of it.”

ABOUT PIPELINE

Pipeline is a Fellowship of high-performing entrepreneurs who call the Midwest home. Our entrepreneurs have access to a renowned national network of experts who share a passion for the Pipeline family. Through Pipeline, entrepreneurs invest in their own professional development, and also give generously of their time, talent, and capital to enable them to build global businesses from wherever they choose. Pipeline takes zero equity in Member companies, focusing on the entrepreneur first. The Fellowship year is just the beginning. Pipeline is available for life. Learn more at pipelineentrepreneurs.com.