



News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nominations Open for the 2026 Entrepreneurial Awards

RICHLAND, Wash. – Nominations are now being accepted for the 30th Annual Entrepreneurial Awards, recognizing outstanding entrepreneurs, emerging businesses and community leaders who are making a lasting impact across Benton and Franklin counties.

The Entrepreneurial Awards celebrate businesses and individuals who exemplify innovation, perseverance, leadership and an entrepreneurial spirit. The award program will culminate in a luncheon on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Richland Riverfront Hotel, where this year's honorees will be recognized.

In addition to honoring outstanding businesses, the program will present the Sam Volpentest Entrepreneurial Leadership Award ("Sammy"), which recognizes an individual whose vision, leadership and dedication have significantly contributed to the economic vitality and entrepreneurial core of the region.

Businesses, organizations and community members are encouraged to submit nominations for deserving entrepreneurs and business leaders. Eligible businesses should demonstrate entrepreneurial growth, innovation, community engagement and a commitment to strengthening the regional economy.

"Nominations are an opportunity to celebrate the innovators, risk-takers and business leaders who help drive our region forward," said the Entrepreneurial Awards Committee.

Businesses must be located in Benton or Franklin counties, have fewer than 15 employees and have been in business for less than seven years. Nominations are open now and will be accepted through September 11, 2026. Winners will be selected by the Entrepreneurial Awards Committee. Multiple entrepreneurial awards will be presented at the Tuesday, October 20, 2026, event at the Richland Riverfront Hotel, including one Sammy award.

To submit a nomination, become a sponsor, or register to attend the awards luncheon, visit TCEntrepreneurialAwards.com.

The Entrepreneurial Awards are hosted by the Richland Rotary Club and Fuse and presented by Strong Racing. Sponsors include the Tri-City Regional Chamber of Commerce, TRIDEC, Tri-Cities Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, West Richland Chamber of Commerce, FreeForm, Washington State University Tri-Cities, Richland Riverfront Hotel and the Port of Benton.

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