## NEWS RELEASE

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# Danville Pittsylvania Chamber Celebrates Regional Leaders, Businesses, and Entrepreneurs at Annual Awards Ceremony

[DANVILLE, VA] – The Danville Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce recognized the region's outstanding leaders, businesses, entrepreneurs, and community champions during its Annual Awards Ceremony held June 11, 2026, at the Institute for Advanced Learning and Research. More than 400 leaders gathered to celebrate excellence in leadership, business innovation, and community engagement.

The event was particularly significant as the Chamber celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the merger of the Danville and Pittsylvania County Chambers, marking a quarter-century of partnership, collaboration, and business leadership throughout the region.

"Tonight's honorees represent the very best of Danville and Pittsylvania County," said Anne Moore-Sparks, president and CEO. "They are leaders who are investing in our future, strengthening our economy, serving their communities, and helping position our region for continued growth and success."

Highlighted below are the award recipients.

**Pinnacle Award**
The Chamber's highest honor, the Pinnacle Award recognizes a business or organization that demonstrates exceptional leadership, innovation, professionalism, community engagement, and commitment to strengthening the economic vitality and quality of life of the region.

2026 Pinnacle Award Recipient: Hitachi Energy

**Pinnacle Small Business Award**
The Pinnacle Small Business Award recognizes a small business that contributes to the region's economic vitality and quality of life through innovative business practices, professionalism, and strong community involvement.

2026 Pinnacle Small Business Award Recipient: TECHnista

**Chamber Champion Award**
The Chamber Champion Award honors an individual whose dedication and advocacy have made a lasting impact on the Chamber and the business community.

2026 Chamber Champion Award Recipient: Brenda Bowman

**Laurie S. Moran Chamber Ambassador of the Year Award**
Named in honor of former Chamber president & CEO Laurie S. Moran, this award recognizes an Ambassador who exemplifies leadership, service, and a commitment to advancing the Chamber's mission.

2026 Laurie S. Moran Chamber Ambassador of the Year Recipient: Arianna Ramberg, RAM Management Solutions and Megaptera Cybersecurity

**WE (Women Empowered) Lead Award**
The WE Lead Award honors a transformational leader whose influence extends far beyond her own success. It recognizes a woman who leads with purpose, invests in others through mentorship and service, and creates meaningful impact throughout the community. Through her leadership, she inspires others, strengthens those around her, and embodies the spirit of progress, collaboration, and opportunity that defines our region.

2026 WE Lead Award Recipient: Lashawn Farmer

**PACE Awards**
The Professional Achievement and Community Engagement (PACE) Awards recognize outstanding young professionals under the age of 40 who have demonstrated excellence in their profession and meaningful service to the community.

2026 PACE Award Recipients:

- Brianna Shelton, Public Relations Specialist, City of Danville Parks & Recreation Department
- Hailey Ramberg, Co-Founder, RAM Management and Solutions
- Jordan Meadows, Senior Mortgage Loan Officer, Atlantic Union Bank
- Kunal Patel. Director of Accounting & Compliance, Caesars VA
- Laura Alverson, Main Office Branch Manager, Atlantic Union Bank
- Lilly Mamon, Director of Hospitality, The Danville Hotel Collection

**Rev Up Danville Pittsylvania Business Pitch Competition**
The Chamber also recognized the winners of the 2026 Rev Up Danville Pittsylvania Business Pitch Competition, an entrepreneurial initiative designed to provide gap funding and business support to startup and expanding businesses in Danville and Pittsylvania County.

This year's cohort included 15 businesses competing for more than $128,000 in requested funding, with grant awards made possible through support from the City of Danville, Pittsylvania County, the Community Investment Collaborative, The Launch Place, and American Legion Post 1097.

2026 Rev Up Grant Recipients:

- StayTRIM Media (Marlin Adams) – $2,500
- 5 Senses (Genera Nicholson) – $10,000
- Aligned Animal Rehab & Fitness (Dr. Mary Beth Nunes) – $4,600
- Hart and Happy Studio (Deitra Hart) – $5,000
- Little Lady Boutique (Stacia Fitzgerald) – $9,100
- River City Optical (Amber Mercado) – $13,000
- Funky Fleece Farm (Amanda Parks) – $8,000
- Keepsake Prenatal 3D Imaging (Lindsay Moore) – $12,000
- Shay Olé Catering (Crystal Deshazor) – $10,000
- Watkins Contracting & Construction (Nashzee Watkins) – $12,000

In addition to their grant awards, Aligned Animal Rehab & Fitness and Little Lady Boutique each received five hours of marketing consultation services from Letterpress Communications.

"As we celebrate 25 years of partnership and progress, we are proud to recognize the individuals and organizations helping shape the next chapter of our region's story," Moore-Sparks said. "Their leadership, innovation, and commitment to service are creating opportunities and building a stronger future for Danville Pittsylvania County."

The Annual Awards Ceremony recognizes current, emerging, and future leaders whose contributions strengthen the region's economy, improve quality of life, and position Danville Pittsylvania County for continued success.

**About the Danville Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce**

The Danville Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce accelerates business growth by connecting member organizations and employees to dynamic resources and networks. The Chamber serves more than 600 member organizations representing over 22,000 employees and is the premier advocate for business and industry in Danville and Pittsylvania County.

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