



**Press Release  
For Immediate Release**

**Esther Bolling, SWVTC CEO  
ebolling@swvtc.info  
276-679-7800**

***Southwestern Virginia Technology Council Welcomes Dr. Richard Antcliff, NASA Langley's Director of the Office of Strategic Analysis, Communication and Business Development***

The Southwestern Virginia Technology Council (SWVTC) will present the SWVTC High Tech Awards for 2016 at the Annual Awards Banquet and Gala on Thursday, June 16, at the Higher Education Center on the campus of Virginia Highlands Community College in Abingdon.

The Keynote Speaker is Dr. Richard (Rich) Antcliff, Director of the Office of Strategic Analysis, Communications and Business Development at the NASA Langley Research Center. Dr. Antcliff also leads the development of innovative partnerships that bring value to the nation through cooperative leveraging of government and private capabilities. He was recently appointed as the Initiative Manager of the Agency's Regional Economic Development (RED). RED is an element of NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate's Commercial Partnerships Portfolio and seeks to facilitate commercialization through local and regional partnerships and strengthen the commercial activities in local regions. The SWVTC is most excited to see local and regional partnerships develop with NASA Langley.

All those in attendance will also have the opportunity to travel in Virtual Reality, the cutting edge form of entertainment and take that experience home with them.

There will be some interesting things going on in Cyber Security, Advanced Manufacturing and Entrepreneurship as well. This is not going to be your typical Gala.

The SWVTC is still accepting nominations. Technology is in everything we do now, so please consider nominating an entity in any of the categories mentioned on the form. There is a category for almost everyone!

Exhibit booths scheduled to be on display include some of the latest STEM advancements in Drones, Robotics and Virtual Reality.

Nominations are still being accepted in Economic Development, Small Business and Entrepreneur, Education, Government, Innovation, Green and Manufacturing. Self-Nominations are encouraged.

**For tickets, sponsorships, more information, or to make an award nomination, SWVTC can be contacted by e-mail at [ebolling@swvtc.info](mailto:ebolling@swvtc.info), by phone at 276-679-7800, or mail to P.O. Box 859, Norton, VA 24273. Visit our website at [www.swvtc.net](http://www.swvtc.net)**

The Southwestern Virginia Technology Council was organized in 1999. The Council exists to lead Southwestern Virginians in addressing technology issues for business, education and government with the purpose of enhancing the vitality and social well-being of Southwestern Virginia. Council membership includes businesses, institutions and individuals from the Wytheville region to the far western corner of Virginia.

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