

Dreaming BIG

Local small businesses receive special honors

Small businesses are the backbone of our local and national economy. They represent 85 percent of our Chamber members, and we remain committed to recognizing and honoring the impact of small businesses in our community.

Big dreams deserve big rewards, and chambers know how important it is to recognize the very best in American small business. Following a record numbers of entries, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce announced 100 DREAM BIG Blue Ribbon Award winners – and FOUR Huntsville companies made the list!

Congratulations to Chamber members and 2016 Huntsville-based Blue Ribbon Award winners: LEAN Frog Business Solutions, nLogic, Geeks and Nerds (GaN), and PROJECTXYZ.

In addition to the 100 Blue Ribbon Award winners, the U.S. Chamber selected the seven finalists for the DREAM BIG Small Business of the Year, and LEAN Frog was named one of the seven! The 2016 DREAM BIG Small Business of the Year will take home a \$10,000 cash prize.

“We are thrilled to be selected as the Southeastern finalist for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s DREAM BIG Award,” said Sherri Headrick, LEAN Frog co-founder and the Director of Marketing and Personnel. “The recognition reinforces that this is a time of exciting growth and opportunity for LEAN Frog and our mission to maximize the services public schools provide students, parents, and communities. We are thankful for the support of the Chamber of Commerce of Huntsville/Madison County, the hard work of our talented team, and the trust of our wonderful customers.”

LEAN Frog Business Solutions, led by Byron and Sherri Headrick, a husband-and-wife team, uses LEAN Six Sigma (LSS) principles to help public schools improve student services and optimize operations. Seeing a need for organizations to do more with less, especially those within the public education system, Byron and Sherri founded LEAN Frog with the goal of increased efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability in school systems, ultimately transforming public education in the southeastern U.S. Huntsville-based LEAN Frog employs 18 full-time staff in two offices, has impacted more than 230,000 students, and has saved school systems more than \$80 million to date.

The DREAM BIG award celebrates the success of small business and honors its contributions to America’s economic growth. The Small Business of the Year, the seven regional finalists, and 100 Blue Ribbon winners will be honored on June 14 during [America’s Small Business Summit](#) in Washington, D.C.

Tim Thornton, CEO and President of nLogic said, “nLogic is



honored to be recognized by the U.S. Chamber for the DREAM BIG Blue Ribbon Award. This award is attributed to the dedication, hard work and professionalism of all our employee-owners. This recognition would not be possible without the continued trust of and partnership with our customers. nLogic is proud to be among the four Huntsville companies recognized for this award which is attributed to the entrepreneurship fostered by our award-winning community.”



Dr. Jonn Kim, President and CEO of Geeks and Nerds (GaN) said, “We are honored to be included in the Best 100 Small Business in the U.S., along with PROJECTXYZ, LEAN Frog, and nLogic. It is such an impressive, almost unfathomable, achievement for Huntsville to produce four companies in the best 100 in the U.S. This award is a culmination of hard work by super employees at Geeks and Nerds, our awesome Chamber of Commerce, and the city of Huntsville. We live and work in a progressive city that promotes innovation and entrepreneurship, and we are so fortunate to have the support of our community to continue our success! Let’s keep going, Huntsville!”



Kim Lewis, CEO of PROJECTXYZ said, “PROJECTXYZ is thrilled to be named a DREAM BIG Blue Ribbon Award winner by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce alongside some of Huntsville’s best admired small businesses – LEAN Frog, GaN and nLogic. Our company is deeply committed to fostering good business practices, dynamic relationships, and offering our customers the highest level of service and accountability possible. This award further validates our efforts here in the community and beyond.



We have worked hard to grow this company with a family-like, collaborative atmosphere – with everyone pitching in, working hard, taking risks and achieving success.”

The 2016 DREAM BIG Blue Ribbon Award Winners were selected from a record number of applicants from across the country and were judged in four key categories: strategic planning, employee development, customer service, and community involvement.

Congratulations again to our four DREAM BIG Blue Ribbon Award winners – and good luck to Small Business of the Year finalist, LEAN Frog! ■