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Chamber installs new leadership at 131st Annual Meeting

Presents H.L. Culbreath Jr. Profile in Leadership Award to Chuck Sykes, Announces Startup Scholars

Tampa, Fla. – The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce held its 131st Annual Meeting today at the Tampa Convention Center. A sold-out crowd of 1050 attendees came together to celebrate the Chamber's 2016 achievements. 2016 Chamber Chair Guy King III of M.E. Wilson Co., Inc. passed the gavel to 2017 Chair Mike Griffin of Savills Studley Occupier Services. The Chamber also received greetings from U.S. Senator Bill Nelson, Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn and Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners Chairman Stacy White. The Chamber collected toys at the event, teaming with Metropolitan Ministries to help bring gifts to the Holiday Tent, which serves more than 19,000 children in the Bay area.

Griffin unveiled the Chamber's 10-year vision plan, which is comprised of three pillars – Catalyst, Inclusive Organization and HUB for Business, all supported by a foundation of Organizational Excellence. To review the entire 10-year vision plan, please click [here](#).

Griffin also introduced the Chamber's 2017 Executive Committee Members, including:

Chair	Mike Griffin	Savills Studley Occupier Services
Chair-Elect	Steven Bernstein, Esq.	Fisher Phillips
Treasurer	Jamie Harden	Creative Sign Designs
Finance	Yvette Segura	USAA
At Large	Hugh Campbell	AC4S
	Bruce Faulmann	Tampa Bay Times
	Steve Griggs	Tampa Bay Lightning
	Marilyn Mullen Healy, Esq.	Adams and Reese LLP
	Derek Holmes	Tec-Link, LLC
	Lauren Key	Florida Hospital
	Andy Mayts, Esq.	GrayRobinson
	Christopher Rogers	Sykes Enterprises Incorporated

The Chamber also presented the 2016 H.L. Culbreath Jr. Profile in Leadership Award to Chuck Sykes, president and CEO of Sykes Enterprises Incorporated. The award, established in 1997 by [Leadership Tampa Alumni](#), a committee of the Chamber, is presented annually in recognition of an individual whose leadership has made a positive impact within the greater Tampa community.

Chuck Sykes has spent his career working his way through the ranks of his business and industry - beginning in low-level administrative roles and eventually becoming president & CEO of a publicly-traded global company. Words used to describe this individual include consistent, loyal, dependable, caring, trustworthy, and diplomatic. In his own words, he often talks of being a mentor, teacher, and collaborator. Above all else, he is genuine. He is consistent in his values and beliefs, leading always to the greater good. Our recipient is extensively and passionately involved in the Tampa Bay community. His past leadership roles include chairing the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce at a pivotal time in our evolution as well as service on countless boards for nonprofits in our area.

In addition, the Chamber announced its 2017 class of Startup Scholars, which include Simo Juice, The Blind Tiger Café, Wedding Wiz, WeGo Kids, and Wingu Technology. The guest speakers for the first two signature events of 2017 were also revealed. The Military Appreciation Awards on February 22nd will feature General Ann Dunwoody, the first woman in U.S. Military history to achieve the rank of 4-star general. General Dunwoody retired in 2012 after 37 years of service to our country. The guest speaker for the Women of Influence Luncheon on April 13th is Debbie Sterling, founder of GoldieBlox. In 2014, *Fast Company* named GoldieBlox to its list of Most Innovative Companies and in 2015, GoldieBlox won *Parents Magazine's* Toy of the Year and Debbie was inducted by President Obama as a Presidential Ambassador for Global Entrepreneurship.

For more information on the Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, please visit www.tampachamber.com.

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