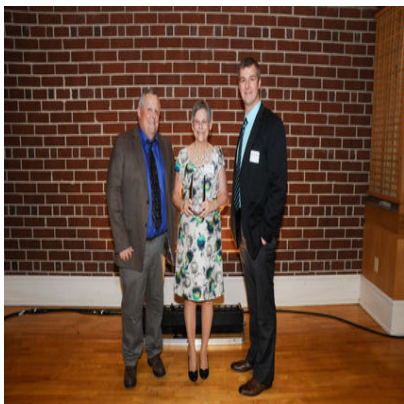


# The Transylvania Times -

## Chamber Celebrates Top Businesses – Brevard NC

By [Matt McGregor](#)  
Staff Writer



2016 Chamber President Kevin Howell presented the 2016 Business of the Year Award to Transylvania Vocational Services, which was represented by Nancy Stricker and Jamie Brandenburg. (Times photos by Matt McGregor)

The Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce celebrated members, volunteers and sponsors during its 94th annual gala Saturday night at the [Brevard College Porter Center](#).

"Tonight is a night of big events and honoring those who have made an important difference in the Chamber of Commerce," said Clark Lovelace, executive director of the Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce. "They are on the front lines with members, locals and business, and that is an incredibly important role."

Some of the highlights included Billy Higgins, senior vice president and market executive at First Citizens Bank, winning the 2016 Business Person of the Year Award.

Amber Webb, sales manager at First Citizens Bank and community board member on Brevard/Transylvania Chamber of Commerce, presented him the award.

"This year's recipient is one of the most charitable and honorable leaders who I know I'll ever have the opportunity to have worked for," Webb said.

Other winners included [Transylvania](#) Vocational Services, which took the 2016 Business of the Year award.

"The business of the year award recognizes a business that has shown financial and/or employee growth which has made an impact in our community," [Mayor Jimmy Harris](#) said.

Rise and Shine won for 2016 Non-Profit of the Year, and Frank Porter, general manager of [Comporium](#), won the 2016 Esther Wesley Award. Parker Platt received the Duke Energy Citizenship award.

Sponsors were also recognized:

- Premier - [Brevard College](#), [City of Brevard](#), [Comporium](#) and [Transylvania Regional Hospital](#).
- Platinum - [Brevard](#) IT Solutions, [Brevard](#) Music Center, College Walk Retirement Community, Domokur Architects, Duke Energy, Egolf [Brevard](#), Food Matters Market, Oskar Blues, The [Transylvania](#) Times and WSQL.



Silver sponsors include Brevard Health & Racquet Club, Brevard SCORE, Davidson River Outfitters, Ecusta Credit Union, Friends of the Ecusta Trail, Hampton Inn, Looking Glass Eye Center, Perfect Balance Physical Therapy, Promotional Authority,, The Oaks-Brevard, Rockbrook Camp for Girls, St Marie Financial Advisors, Sam's Club-Hendersonville, Spring Valley Farm Dog Care, Brian Stretcher, Ph.D., attorney at law, The Sunset Motel, Transylvania Economic Alliance and Blue Ridge Community College. Pictured are some of the sponsors.

•Gold - ACTIVATE Business Solutions, Allegra [Brevard](#), Asheville Savings Bank, Channel 70, Connestee Falls Realty, Entegra Bank, First Citizens Bank, Fisher Realty, [Gorges State Park](#), Holiday Inn Express, MountainSide Homebuilders, Platt Architecture, Republic Services, State Farm - Meredith Baldrige, [Transylvania County](#) Government and United Community Bank.

•Silver - [Brevard](#) Health & Racquet Club, [Brevard](#) SCORE, Davidson River Outfitters, Ecusta Credit Union, Friends of the Ecusta Trail, Hampton Inn, Looking Glass Eye Center, Perfect Balance Physical Therapy, Promotional Authority, The Oaks-Brevard, Rockbrook Camp for Girls, St Marie Financial Advisors, Sam's Club-Hendersonville, Spring Valley Farm Dog Care, Brian Stretcher, Ph.D., Attorney at Law, The Sunset Motel, [Transylvania](#) Economic Alliance, and Blue Ridge Community College.

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