

# Fostering innovation

in North Texas



# Chairman of the Board message

Tech Titans began 2018 by setting aggressive targets reflecting the priorities and interests of our members who represent a quarter of a million employees through our 300+ member companies. Our targets include innovation, advocacy, programs, networking and educational events.

We reviewed what programs were of most interest to our members and, as a result, established two new forums – one on **artificial intelligence** and one on **blockchain**. To drive innovation in North Texas, we began to explore the establishment of a Dallas-based **innovation hub** for entrepreneurs, major corporations and university researchers — those who embrace, nurture and leverage technological innovation.

Our **advocacy** program focused its efforts on the Texas legislators' interim charges, collaborating with other associations to promote tech policy at a federal level, a Tech Titans fly-in week in Washington, D.C., and meetings with federal and state legislators.

In order to engage the next generation of Tech Titans, we looked at our active volunteers and membership and decided to kick off our **NextGen** events this summer.

Finally, one of our most successful programs is our **STEM education** initiative, which focuses on meeting the tech workforce demands of the future. Congratulations to the STEM team that is well on its way to this year's target of producing inspirational STEM experiences for 5,000 students in the North Texas area.

All this could not be achieved without the **passion and energy** from all of you, our members, committee volunteers, speakers, board members and staff.

Tech Titans is the largest technology trade association in Texas, and we will celebrate the finalists and winners at our prestigious annual **Tech Titans Awards Gala on August 24**. The Gala will honor the leaders, inventors, adopters, advocates and educators, from all sizes of organizations. We have received the highest quality of inspirational nominations for this year.

What a great way to celebrate and recognize our innovative contributions to the North Texas technology ecosystem!

Thank you for being part of our success.

## **Barbara Baffer**

Chairman of the Board

Vice President, Government and Industry Relations, Ericsson





# STEM *growing the future tech workforce*

Tech Titans is dedicated to educating and inspiring students to pursue STEM career education.

What inspired you to go into a STEM field? Tech Titans volunteers are building the future STEM workforce pipeline. The team has a goal of creating 5,000 inspirational experiences with students in the next year. ISDs currently participating include Richardson, Wylie, Lewisville, Coppell and Carrollton-Farmers Branch.

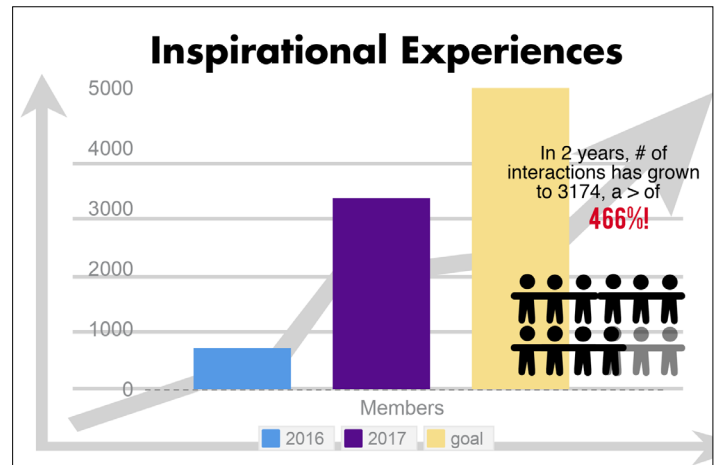
Volunteers introduce students to engineering and tech inspirations in STEM camps, career days and presenting in speaking panels. How can you help? Learn more at [www.techtitans.org/stem](http://www.techtitans.org/stem).

Several companies have supported Tech Titans' STEM efforts by investing with financial and volunteer support; of note, Qorvo, Mitel and State Farm. Thank you!

Forum teams have partnered with the STEM team to create inspirational curriculum. The IoT team designed a self-driving car exercise. The Analytics & Insights team created a social media analysis, so students could determine the brand value of a famous person with assistance from volunteers from MPVindex and their platform.

The STEM video contest, sponsored by State Farm, invites middle and high school students to create excitement among elementary students through short videos about Smart Cities or health tech. Watch the prize-winning videos on the Tech Titans YouTube channel.

**Below:** State Farm's Lisa Frey and Brad Flachsbart with Talent Team Chair Bob Hill present STEM video contest winners their awards. State Farm sponsored the contest and Talent Team efforts throughout the year.



**Above:** The Tech Titans STEM team continues to develop content, providing inspirational experiences for North Texas students.

**Below:** Deborah Sawyer from the Gala Team and Chair Rich McBee present \$25K to the Tech Titans of the Future—University winner to Young Women in Science and Engineering Investigators at UT Dallas.



# special interest forums

Tech Titans forum communities share information, brainstorm, network and collaborate at a low price point to maximize participation. Forum events numbered 38 during the last year and meet during lunch, break-fast or even in the afternoon. Some are speaker-driven, some are panels, some are roundtables. Make sure you're following the weekly email calendar to stay up-to-date in the areas where you have an interest.

**Analytics & Insights** – Be a part of this growing business intelligence community. Advance your knowledge and understanding of how data is used and improve strategic decision making.

**Artificial Intelligence** promotes a better understanding and appreciation of artificial intelligence and the profound impact it will have as it transforms learning and automation in virtually every industry.

**Blockchain** brings together business, legal and university leaders to learn from each other about this powerful tool for recording, sharing and securing data of all types while encouraging blockchain's growth in North Texas.

**Cybersecurity** develops solutions for business security and risk management issues through thought leadership, education, industry development and community service.

**Design & Manufacturing** – Keep your edge with exposure to cross-sector experts, trends and wins in emerging technologies, electronics, plastics and metal fabrication.

**Internet of Things (IoT)** monitors trends and shape the future with companies committed to knowledge creation, identification of solutions and promotion of IoT.

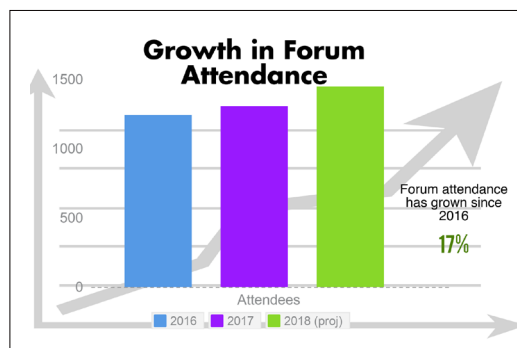
**Human Resources** – Leverage trends and adapt to new regulations and technologies with fellow Tech Titans HR professionals.

**Health Tech** – Passionate about technology and healthy outcomes? Members research, develop and implement healthcare technologies, from pharma and biotech to devices, apps and IT solutions.

**NextGen** is targeted toward young professionals under age 35 working in a tech field. NextGen builds connections while learning about upcoming trends.

Learn more: [www.techtitans.org/forums](http://www.techtitans.org/forums)

## find one for you



The Health Tech Forum visits a hands-on presentation of the robotic da Vinci surgical system at Methodist Richardson Medical Center. The Analytics and Insights Forum hears a presentation about virtual reality below.







In-depth conversations can happen over a meal at the Tech Industry Lunch, where tech pros build their networks.



Students mix with professionals at the Tech Industry Luncheon, where they hear about the latest trends.



**Above:** Tech Titans of the Future High School winner, Henry Vo, celebrates by bringing his mother up to the stage with him.

**Below:** The Bloodbuy team celebrates its Emerging Innovation Award on stage together.



# People collaborate, share & inspire

Tech Titans takes seriously its vision of creating a place where connected, trusted and respected North Texas technology leaders and innovators:

- **Collaborate** to help innovation thrive in North Texas,
- **Partner** to help each other succeed,
- **Drive innovation** and the adoption of advanced technology in the region for higher levels of success,
- **Actively seek** new avenues to solve real-world problems, and
- **Promote** the innovation and leadership that makes North Texas a leader in technology.

The **Tech Titans Awards Gala** celebrates and recognizes the success of our key constituents:

- **Developers** of technology,
- **Adopters** who implement groundbreaking technology,
- **Investors** who fund and support innovative advancements in technology development and application, and
- **Educators** who help shape the next generation of innovators.

The **Tech Industry Luncheon**, sponsored by the Jonsson School at UT Dallas, is an interactive monthly program focused on technology applications and trends in the high-tech industry.

The quest has begun for a **physical innovation hub** to house a community where accidental collisions happen between tech companies, entrepreneurs, investors and students.

## Events

### Tech Industry Lunch

11 events  
1062 attended  
+37%

### Tech Titans Awards Gala

837 (+7%)  
registered  
1.47M  
impressions

### Golf Tournament

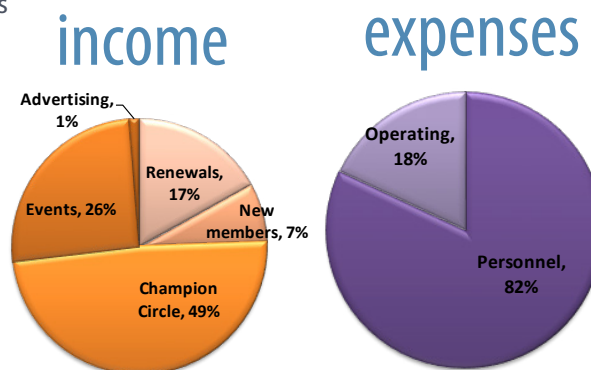
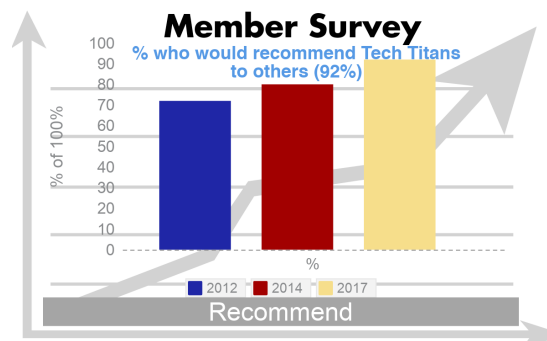
124  
golfers

# a healthy association tech mission

Overall membership, now around 350, continues to grow with the inclusion of individuals and companies who collaborate, share and inspire creative thinking that fuels tomorrow's innovations. Financially, our largest output is in staff time. We continue to evaluate the programs in which we invest staff resources and make adjustments as necessary.

Yearly audits conducted by an outside contractor have always returned stellar ratings, and this year is no exception. Your investment in the Tech Titans mission will continue to make the largest impact possible.

Periodic member surveys help us evaluate programs and satisfaction of our offering as a tech association. The highest valued programs include the forums, our newsletter, STEM activities, innovation efforts and the annual awards gala. Those who would recommend Tech Titans to others has reached 92 percent.



# legislative advocacy

Tech Titans advocacy focuses on enacting pro technology practices in government. We are active year-round educating and influencing national and state policymakers on topics that impact our members and the North Texas tech industry.

Even in a year when the Texas legislature isn't in session, our Advocacy Team still works to educate our members about the issues that affect tech success in North Texas. During the last year, the team met with 12 legislators and heard from 23 policy experts about the federal policy landscape, state ethics reform, school finance, economic development, healthcare and insurance. A special Tech Industry Lunch panel discussed the causes and effects of recent China tariffs.

During the second Federal Policy Conference in Washington, D.C., Tech Titans members and staff met with elected officials (and took a few fun tours). Our most recent trip focused on healthcare reform, immigration and trade. *See group in photo below.*

Are you receiving our regular legislative updates? Sign up at [www.techtitans.org/advocacy](http://www.techtitans.org/advocacy)





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## Platinum:



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Data Center Solutions



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## Gold:



## Silver:



# TechTitans®

The Technology Association for North Texas  
[www.techtitans.org](http://www.techtitans.org)