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DRCI Honored by Hilton Head/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce

BLUFFTON, SC, January 2018. On Saturday, The Don Ryan Center for Innovation won the 2017 Bluffton Regional Business Council Bluffton Member of the Year Award. The Hilton Head/Bluffton Chamber of Commerce announced the award at their annual gala on January 27th, 2018.

“We are thrilled to be recognized by the Chamber for the work we have done these past few years. Our focus every day is to help both existing and new businesses in Bluffton,” said David Nelems, CEO. “The exciting thing is, we’re just getting started. We’re currently working on our 3-year Strategic Plan and next year, our 3000 square-foot facility at Buckwalter Place will be complete. This space - The HUB - will serve not only our Innovators, but will also be the premiere co-working space in Beaufort County.”

Since 2012, the Don Ryan Center for Innovation has worked with 32 companies in the formal Incubator Program while advising an additional 140 companies. At last count, DRCI Graduates employ more than 100 people in Beaufort County. These companies generate more than \$25 million in annual revenue and \$5 million in annual payroll. In 2016 DRCI merged with the Bluffton Public Development Corporation to include more traditional Economic Development Activities such as business recruitment, expansion and attraction. The approach of traditional economic development combined with business incubation ensures that the organization can serve businesses at every level as Bluffton grows.

“We would not be where we are today without the vision and leadership of Bluffton Town Council, and the Don Ryan Center for Innovation Board of Directors. Their support and direction has been critical as the organization has grown,” said Nelems.

DRCI Chairman of the Board Matt Green stated, “While 2012 seems like yesterday we also want to thank Don Ryan for his steadfast enthusiasm. When we brought the idea of an incubator to him he immediately agreed to help in any way necessary. We would not be here today without him. We thank all of our supporters and feel that our best days are ahead.

To learn more about the Don Ryan Center for Innovation, and to become a member visit their website: www.donryancenter.com

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