



**PRINCETON REGIONAL
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
champions for business

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Young Professionals Summit presents CNN Hero and Founder of America's Grow-A-Row

Princeton, NJ – November 1, 2016 - The Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce will host more than 150 young professionals [YPs] at the annual **Young Professionals Summit** on Friday, November 18th from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at The College of New Jersey. The event will feature **Chip Paillex**, President & Founder of **America's Grow-A-Row**, exemplifying this year's theme "*Turning Passion Into Purpose.*"

Mr. Paillex has received considerable recognition for his work, including the 2011 Bank of America Neighborhood Excellence Initiative Local Hero Award, the 2012 Edible Jersey Non-Profit Local Hero Award, and in 2014, was nationally recognized with both the CNN Hero and the Ford Motor Company Go Further Everyday Hero awards. America's Grow-a-Row's mission is to positively impact as many lives as possible through a volunteer effort of planting, picking, rescuing, and delivering free fresh produce.

"Not only has Chip made strides all over NJ, but he has made strides in fighting world hunger. Chip's story is the perfect instance of how to turn your passion into purpose to help the greater good. He is a great example for the region's young professionals to learn from," said Peter Crowley, CEO and President of the Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce.

The third annual Princeton Region Young Professionals Company Choice Award will also be presented by **Hill Barth & King**, to this year's honoree, **WithumSmith+Brown**. The award recognizes an outstanding organization in the Princeton Region that excels in their efforts to attract, retain and develop young professionals. "WithumSmith+Brown's dedication to their young professionals has proven to yield not only successful results, but foster a motivational and mentoring team environment for the firm. We celebrate their contributions as young professionals and as emerging professionals in the region and beyond," said Crowley.

The Summit will also feature two breakout sessions. Emily Koltnow of Koltnow & Company will present "**How to Meet 1,500 People at Lunch,**" and present key networking tips for the emerging leaders. Session two will feature a panel of experts highlighting how YPs can take advantage of non-profit board positions, in "**Bringing Your Passion to Nonprofits.**" The panel is moderated by, Linda Meisel, LFM Solutions and former Executive Director of Jewish Family & Children Services; Amy Klein, VolunteerConnect; Gary Tier, Grey Elephant Consulting; Jeffrey M. Vega, Princeton Area Community Foundation; and Robin Walton, Thomas Edison State University.

The Summit will take place at The College of New Jersey from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and tickets are \$50 for Chamber members and \$75 for future members. Tickets are available at www.princetonchamber.org.

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Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce –The Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization committed to promoting business growth within the Princeton Region and surrounding areas. The Princeton Regional Chamber of Commerce is the largest Chamber in Central New Jersey with more than 1,200 member companies and associations representing 250,000 employees and billions of dollars in annual revenue. Membership covers five NJ counties including Mercer, Somerset, Middlesex, Hunterdon, Monmouth, and as far as New York, Philadelphia and Canada. More information about the Chamber can be found at www.princetonchamber.org.