

## Center for Economic Growth's 22nd Annual Technology Awards

Times Union

### KIRSH HELMETS WINS TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION OF THE YEAR AWARD.

The Center for Economic Growth honored the Capital Region's most innovative and entrepreneurial companies and individuals during the 22nd annual Technology Awards Thursday at The Rivers Resort Casino in Schenectady. Honorees included GlobalFoundries, iSimulate, Inspect Point, **KIRSH Helmets**, and Plug Power. Also honored were Michael Liehr, vice president of research at SUNY Polytechnic Institute and CEO of AIM Photonics, as technology trailblazer and Amy Johnson, director of the Biomedical Acceleration and Commercialization Center at Albany Medical Center, who received the lifetime contributor award.

Donald DeVito, Co-founder / President / COO, spoke on behalf of KIRSH Helmets. He and Jason Kirshon, CEO and Inventor accepted the technology award.

"We started KIRSH Helmets a little over a year ago with myself and Jason Kirshon who alone worked more than 7 years to devel-



Photo: Lori Van Buren

The KIRSH table listens to award winners talk at the Annual Technology Awards at the Rivers Casino Resort on Thursday, June 28, 2018 in Schenectady, N.Y. (Lori Van Buren/Times Union)

op this amazing and Revolutionary technology. As we have said many times before, we believe KIRSH helmets will become the next billion-dollar company to take root and prosper here in Tech Valley.

While this is an important reason for the company to exist, we must dig deeper for the real reason and truest purpose for our existence. We can find easily in the world of business, people who are interested in money, making profit their priority and nothing else.

But the underlying drive for our

success comes from desire, a passion to do something more. Not just to make a better product, but to reshape an industry, to destroy its outdated way of thinking, that will exact change for our customers in a way that they can't [experience] without us. (thanks to many people in this room, we have already begun the revolution.)

And to do this in such a way that we can create better lives for them, their families and our society as a whole... so together, we all will enjoy the ride.