

## Most Admired CEOs honored

By: Jessica Mitchell April 20, 2017 0



The honorees of The Journal Record's Oklahoma's Most Admired CEOs.  
(Photo by Emmy Verdin)

OKLAHOMA CITY – Never be afraid to ask, “Why not?”

Collision Works CEO Jake Nossaman offers this advice for business leaders looking for success.

“Throughout business, you get told a lot of things and half of the things might be true and half might be false. If you never ask ‘why not,’ you never know the answer or the background of the answer,” Nossaman said.

“Whether it be losing the

contract, losing a key employee or being turned down for a business loan, if you don’t ask ‘why not,’ you can’t grow. You don’t know what direction you need to grow.”

Nossaman was among the 26 CEOs honored Thursday night at *The Journal Record's* eighth-annual Oklahoma's Most Admired CEOs event at the Skirvin Hilton Hotel in downtown Oklahoma City. As three-time honorees, Nossaman and VI Marketing and Branding's Tim Berney were inducted into the program's 2017 Chain of Distinction.

Berney said he believes the key to success is to work harder than the person next to you.

“I’m surprised at how many people that aren’t willing to give it their all, and I think the people that do have a real good opportunity to hit their goals.”

Three executives were also presented financial stewardship awards at Thursday's night event.

All the honorees, who represent the public and private business sectors as well as the nonprofit community, are profiled in the *Oklahoma's Most Admired CEOs* magazine, inserted in Friday's issue of *The Journal Record*.

Sponsors of this year's event include Cox Business, GableGotwals and HoganTaylor. In addition, Vistage sponsored and conducted an afternoon leadership forum as part of the program this year.

### 2017 CEO honorees

#### Private company category:

Greg Arend, Deloitte

Tim Berney, VI Marketing and Branding

Steve Burris, Kevo Properties

Wendy Buxton, LynnCo Supply Chain Solutions

Jill Castilla, Citizens Bank of Edmond

J. Clay Christensen, Christensen Law Group PLLC

William "Bill" Croak, FNB Community Bank

Pageant Ferriabough-Charlton, Busines\$'s Resource Unlimited Inc. – B.R.U. Inc.

H.K. Hatcher, NBC Oklahoma

Dee Hays, Excellence Engineering LLC

Tom Jensen, Explorer Pipeline

Eric Joiner, Insight Creative Group

Sean Kouplen, Regent Bank

Jacob Nossaman, Collison Works

Henry "Hank" Ross, Ross Health Care/Physician Housecalls

Josh Sanders, Keystone Foodservice

Hal Smith, Hal Smith Restaurants

Luke Strawn, Oklahoma Abstract Partners

Mark Towler, Phase 2

**Public company category:**

David Hardy, UMB Bank

John Higginbotham, Bank of Oklahoma – Oklahoma City

Charles Spicer, OU Medical System

**Nonprofit category:**

Lauren Branch, NewView Oklahoma

Shane Jett, Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corp.

Jim Priest, Sunbeam Family Services

Steve Rasmussen, True Sky Credit Union

**2017 Financial Stewardship honorees:**

Lillian Hobbs, Dale Rogers Training Center

Ora Morgan, Autry Technology Center

Gene Roth, GDH Consulting Inc.

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