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**Vaughan-Bassett Furniture Chairman to serve as keynote
speaker at the CBICC Vision Dinner/Excellence in Business
Awards**

Nomination process to open Oct. 3

STATE COLLEGE, PA, Sept. 8, 2016 – The **Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County** announced today that John D. Bassett III, Chairman, Vaughan-Bassett Furniture, will serve as keynote dinner speaker at the second annual Vision Dinner/Excellence in Business Awards, to be held Thursday, Dec. 15 at Mountain View Country Club.

A third generation furniture man, John has worked in the industry for 55 years. Under John's leadership, Vaughan-Bassett has become the largest wooden bedroom manufacturer in the United States, with 100 percent of Vaughan-Bassett's products manufactured domestically.

The book "FACTORY MAN" about John's ongoing fight for American manufacturing was published in July, 2015, and spent several weeks among the top 25 best-selling hardcover nonfiction in the United States. In May of this year, along with Ellis Hennican, John launched his own book, "MAKING IT IN AMERICA," which explains his rules for competing, his principles of management, and his philosophy as an American.

"As we prepare to recognize the best of Centre County's business community, we look forward to welcoming a prominent business leader with a strong commitment to American manufacturing, and having him share his story of business success," said Vern Squier, CBICC President and CEO.

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Presented in partnership with *Pennsylvania Business Central*, the Excellence in Business Awards honor business leadership in six categories:

- Technology Company of the Year
- Entrepreneur of the Year Award
- Visionary Company of the Year
- Business Leader of the Year
- Young Professional of the Year
- Small Business of the Year (Retail/hospitality/professional service/service)

The evening will also celebrate the 2016 Economic Development Champion. Last year, Penn State University President Dr. Eric Barron received the award.

The award nomination process opens Monday, Oct. 3.

Current Vision Dinner sponsors include: Homeland Manufacturing Services; PSECU; First National Bank, and OGOVO Communications.

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