Question 1. Why are you nominating...

The New York BizLab just hit its 5-year anniversary. In that time there have been several successful graduations, where companies started and grew here and eventually outgrew the space. We have had several companies raise significant funds, more than $1M, with assistance from the BizLab's innovative and highly regarded VirtualFund Network, which includes more than 200 high net worth individuals (some are current for former CEOs who have had exits and are looking to reinvest in startups). We have held a successful DreamTeam campaign, bringing three PR/Marketing agencies and two BizLab companies together for a unique project (raising funds for school backpack programs that provide food for underprivileged students). The BizLab is home to some of the most successful advisers who provide free guidance to companies. The BizLab is also home to companies that have been designated a Best Place to Work and include several newly minted 40 Under 40s (since moving into the BizLab). The BizLab is also the site of what has become a must-see event, the BizLab-Clarkson lunch, featuring some of the most successful or promising leaders, from Frank Poore (just a month after his $1.1B sales of CommerceHub) to Nicole Snow, whose company Darn Good Yarn is one of the fastest growing companies in the region. Other events (outside of the BizLab-Clarkson event) have included well known business author William Danko, (The Millionaire Next Door), former Sen. Majority Leader Joe Bruno spoke on his book "Keep Swinging" among other authors. The BizLab Has been the site of launches of such efforts at Tech Loop, and the Hammock Way of Life. We were the location for an 8 week course with the City Mission and Sandler Training called CornerStone University. We've also hosted or partnered with organizations such as YPN (an evening event), Ignite U (bootcamps) a press conference on school bus safety. That's just a sample.

2. Describe how ...

The New York BizLab was the first major project in lower State Street that I believe had a ripple effect in helping lure Electric City Apartments, SUNY Schenectady's KINDL project and even Frog Alley. Before any of those entities were there (for several years) the BizLab was the only building that was undergoing major renovation ($2M), the BizLab was bringing literally hundreds of people every year to lower State St. And it's focus has been to help grow companies right here in Schenectady and become the next Transfinder, which outgrew its Erie Blvd. space and moved to a brand new office building on State Street. That's the model.