



FOUNDERS
COMMISSION

FOUNDERS COMMISSION LAUNCHES, UNVEILS DIAMONDS AS SIGNATURE SERIES

DIAMONDS: TOPGUN Gala Debuts June 15 in Honor of Region's Exemplary Brands, People

ROCKFORD, ILL., May 5, 2023: A 501(c)(3) charitable organization built to honor and leverage the Rockford region's excellence and ingenuity, **Founders Commission (FC)** is thrilled to launch nonprofit operations highlighted by the TOPGUN-themed debut of the DIAMONDS signature series. A storytelling gala and experience honoring the Rockford region's exemplary brands and people, **DIAMONDS** embodies the pressure and process necessary for attaining the highest levels of achievement across all industries.

DIAMONDS: TOPGUN marks the 2023 theme to amplify the region's prowess in aerospace and military endeavors through the story of **Michael Andrews**, a U.S. Navy TOPGUN instructor and Rockford native. Emceed by **Nicole Briscoe**, an ESPN SportsCenter anchor and Roscoe native, the program is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, June 15, at Emery Air's North Hangar.

"I am extremely honored and excited for the opportunity to share my story, and to highlight other incredibly talented individuals who at one time called Rockford home," said Andrews, a 1998 Auburn High School graduate. "I look forward to seeing everyone June 15 for an awesome evening."

DIAMONDS: TOPGUN is a formal attire celebration featuring dinner, live entertainment, a keynote presentation, interactive panel, cash bar, aircraft static displays, and other surprise elements. Tickets (\$125/attendee) can be purchased at [www.FoundersCommission.org/Diamonds](http://wwwFOUNDERSCOMMISSION.org/Diamonds), while program updates will be available via Founders Commission social channels ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#)).

"The Founders Commission is excited and looking forward to this inaugural event, which highlights our region alumni coming back and shaping our community for greater things," said **Cathy Headley**, board chair of the Founders Commission.

An educational program that mirrors Founders Commission's organizational pillars, the DIAMONDS series serves as a platform for icons of all trades to activate with and give back to their native Rockford region.

"DIAMONDS is a perfect example of a Founders Commission program, as it allows us to celebrate and leverage excellence together for the community's benefit," said **Nick Povalitis**, founder/president of Founders Commission. "Alongside the Founders Commission board of directors, it's an honor to identify program opportunities and, most importantly, deliver in ways that uplift the Rockford region. We're also incredibly thankful to the organizations and people that are supporting us through DIAMONDS: TOPGUN."

Special thanks to DIAMONDS: TOPGUN partners to date:

- **Champion Partner:** Lexus of Rockford
- **1834 Club Partners:** Emery Air, Jim and Pam Keeling, MembersAlliance Credit Union, Plus Seven Company, Savant Wealth Management, SupplyCore, Xfinity
- **Supporting Partners:** Carpetland USA, Code 1 Aviation, Prographics, Ron Clewer

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THE FOUNDERS COMMISSION STORY

Settled nearly two centuries ago along a rocky ford, the Rockford region has a proud lineage of excellence and ingenuity made possible by its brands and people. From aerospace and fashion runways to media and sports arenas to the Moon and Mars, the Forest City's roots and impact transcend generations and place. Inspired by those vast contributions to the world, **Founders Commission** was established in 2023 with a mission to celebrate and leverage the Rockford region's excellence and ingenuity in business, arts and entertainment, and sports for brand, economic and social good.

A certified 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Founders Commission amplifies the region through the following mission-driven objectives:

- Curating holistic partnerships
- Cultivating high-profile events and experiences
- Telling the region's success stories
- Supporting commercial and infrastructure development

For more information about Founders Commission visit www.FoundersCommission.org.

About Founders Commission: A certified 501(c)(3) charitable organization, Founders Commission celebrates and leverages the Rockford region's excellence and ingenuity in business, arts and entertainment, and sports for brand, economic and social good. Inspired by the region's lineage of success tracing back to 1834 when settlers first arrived along a rocky ford, Founders Commission was established in 2023 as a charitable, educational, civic and scientific nonprofit governed by community advocates and business leaders.

Media Contact: Nick Povalitis, Info@FoundersCommission.org, 815.708.1644.

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