

Visionaries and leaders

The Westchester County Association (WCA) held its 2016 Leadership Dinner on Nov. 17 at the Westchester Marriott. The Al DelBello Visionary Awards were presented to four Westchester mayors, while the WCA's 2016 Leadership Awards went to three members of the business community. Mayors Noam Bramson of New Rochelle, Thomas Roach of White Plains, Mike Spano of Yonkers, and Richard Thomas of Mount Vernon received Al DelBello Visionary Awards presented by Westchester County Business Journal Publisher Dee DelBello. The four were honored for having joined WCAs Smart Growth ComPACT, designed to bring ultra-high speed internet service, known as gigabit broadband, to Westchester in the next three to five years.

WCAs 2016 Leadership awards went to Riz Khalig, director, marketing and communications, IBM Global Public Sector and Smarter Cities; Paula Mandell, senior vice president, M&T Bank Corp.; and Tarek Perlew, co-founder of Uncubed, a career and hiring online platform. Khalig advised, "Westchester is competing in a global market; talent will be attracted to your county when you have gigabit." Mandell described the growth of M&T Bank, now with \$3 billion in assets in Westchester and Connecticut; and Perlew pointed out that hiring is changing and recommended, "Look at the future; know how to talk to millennial talent."

The more than 600 attending the event were entertained by songs from Matthew Welling, the 11-year-old son of WCA member Michael Welling. Matthew has overcome major health issues since birth, making his performance a highlight of the evening.

Photos by Lynda Curtis.

1. Attorney **Michael Zarin**, **Joe Simone** and **Guy Liebler** of Simone Development
2. New York state Sen. **Andrea Stewart-Cousins** and Westchester County Clerk **Timothy Idoni**
3. M&T Bank's **Paula Mandell** and Westfair Communications Publisher **Dee DelBello**
4. Developer **Robert Weisz**, WCA President and CEO **Bill Mooney**, and Family Services of Westchester's **Michelle Nichols**
5. **Jill Iannetta** representing White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, New Rochelle Mayor **Noam Bramson** and Yonkers Mayor **Mike Spano**
6. Mount Vernon Mayor **Richard Thomas**
7. WCA's **Annette McLaughlin** and Uncubed co-founder **Tarek Perlew**
8. IBM's **Riz Khalig** and WCA Strategic Advisor **Joan McDonald**
9. Citrin Cooperman's Chairman **Michael Kaplowitz**
10. Young performer **Matthew Welling**

