



**SMILE BRANDS AND CEO STEVEN C. BILT RECEIVE ACG FOUNDERS AWARD**  
Association for Corporate Growth honors Company for Business Success and Culture

IRVINE, CA (May 21, 2019) —CEO Steven C. Bilt of Smile Brands Inc. was honored to receive the Founders Award at the 24th annual Association of Corporate Growth Awards last week. ACG supports middle-market dealmakers and business leaders who invest in growth and build companies.

Smile Brands, a leading dental support organization with over 400 affiliated practices across 17 states, has a deeply rooted culture founded on the company's mission to deliver Smiles for Everyone®. ACG judges were impressed by how strongly the company's mission drives both employee engagement and day-to-day operations.

"I'm humbled to have been selected for the Founders Award by the Association of Corporate Growth," says Bilt. "In the nearly 20 years I have been honored to lead this organization, Smile Brands has never lost sight of our mission of delivering smiles to patients, providers, employees and the communities we serve. In an increasingly complex business world, the simplicity of our mission has proven to be a true competitive advantage."

Over 500 corporate executives were gathered at the awards ceremony to celebrate ten of the highest performing companies in Orange County and the Inland Empire. ACG Orange County Board President Gerik Degner praised all nominees and award recipients for their innovation, fiscal management and positive corporate cultures. Other award recipients included; Citizens Business Bank, Vans, Parcel Pending, Dendreon Pharmaceuticals, Silverado, Salas O'Brien, StudyKIK, Sambazon and American Technologies.

**About Smile Brands**

Based in Irvine California, Smile Brands Inc. is one of the largest providers of support services to dental groups in the United States. Recently ranked #25 on Glassdoor's 2018 Best Places to Work list, Smile Brands Inc. provides comprehensive business support services through exclusive long term agreements with affiliate dental groups, so dentists can spend more time caring for their patients and less time on the administrative, marketing, and financial aspects of operating a dental practice. Smile Brands supports nearly 400 Bright Now!® Dental, Monarch Dental®, Castle Dental®, A+ Dental Care, OneSmile Dental, Johnson Family Dental, P3 Dental Group, and DecisionOne Dental Partners offices in 17 states, including Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Ohio, Oregon, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington. Smile Brands is a portfolio company of Gryphon Investors, a leading middle-market private equity firm based in San Francisco, CA. For more information, visit [www.smilebrands.com](http://www.smilebrands.com).

**About ACG Orange County**

The Association for Corporate Growth - Orange County chapter is part of a global organization that includes 60 chapters involved in corporate growth, corporate development, and mergers and acquisitions. ACG's nearly 15,000 members include professionals from private equity firms, corporations and lenders that invest in middle-market companies, as well as from law, accounting, investment banking and other firms that provide advisory services.

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