

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

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Everyone is a Leader

When many hear the word “leader,” they imagine a CEO, executive director, or president. At the FLEX Speakers Series in June, panel participants assured attendees that “everyone is a leader.” The panel consisted of six of the 13 graduates of the inaugural class of Leadership Venango, the Venango Chamber’s new leadership program.

Brian McNulty, Randy Arnold, Dan Flaherty, Greg Lander, Ashley Smith, and Tessa Byham shared their experience and advice from the nine-month program. Leadership Venango is designed to identify, educate, involve and motivate individuals who desire to become more effective leaders, and participants got to know the region.

“It wasn’t just about leadership, but about getting to know your community,” said Ashley. “Most of the places we visited are hiring and expanding, and our eyes were opened to all we have here.”

Several sessions helped participants learn more about themselves, too, and involved personality tests, mindfulness, and diversity.

“Many of the activities helped us build self-awareness, which in turn



makes us better leaders in our community and work,” said Tessa.

“Learning my strengths and weaknesses enlightened me and has helped me strategize how I can use those to better work with others,” Brian added.

The participants networked with local leaders, as well as the other participants, forming a “family” they described.

“We found we’re not all that different and were able to grow and develop together,” said Dan. “We learned the community needs people to step up and this program gave us the empowerment and skills to do that.”

At the Speaker Series, each panelist covered a topic, including honorable

leadership, community, economic development, and communications.

“Leadership is what you make of it and the value you bring in your position,” said Randy.

The Chamber is currently accepting applications for the next class, which begins in September.

“Leadership is not knowing all the answers, but where to find them,” Greg said. “This program helped us build connections and knowledge to do just that.”

Learn more about Leadership Venango, at leadershipvenango.org or get in touch with us—we can connect you with graduates who are happy to share more about the program.



Brian Payne is one of our newest FLEX members. He is originally from Hadley, PA, and graduated from Edinboro University with bachelor's degrees in Forensic Accounting and Financial Planning.

Brian now works as a CPA Tax Supervisor at McGill, Power, Bell & Associates in Franklin.

He has acquired his CPA and CFE designations and takes great pride and enjoyment from his work and his career achievements.

Future goals of his are to become a partner at McGill, Power, Bell, as well as to learn a foreign language (probably Russian).

One of the things he loves about working in Venango County is the small town environment. The way people treat each other with a welcoming kindness is one of the biggest reasons he enjoys living here.

Brian enjoys the fun Chamber events where he can go to learn and network with other professionals.

Brian is also an avid Pirates fan, who will forever hope they win a World Series. His hobbies are yet another reason he enjoys Venango County. When he is not working, he can be found fishing and spending time with his girlfriend, Stephanie.

Some other parts of the Venango culture that Brian appreciates are tasting beers at Trails to Ales, seeing local live bands at Red Bandana Winery, and spending time with family.

How to Speak so that People Want to Listen

Our TED Talk recommendation this month is by Julian Treasure, whom provides guidance on speaking powerfully to make change in the world. He prefaces this by stating seven deadly sins of speaking, which are: gossip, judging, negativity, complaining, excuses, lying, and dogmatism. Julian goes on to provide four cornerstones to combat these sins, using the acronym HAIL: **H**onesty, **A**uthenticity, **I**ntegrity, and **L**ove.

Julian poses the question: "What would the world be like if we were creating sound consciously and consuming sound consciously and designing all our environments consciously for sound?" And continues on to state, "That would be a world that does sound beautiful, and one where understanding would be the norm."

Save the Date!
Bike 'n Brew
July 20, 2019

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Find this TED Talk by visiting <http://bit.ly/2L3LoPp>



Jessica Wilson has lived in Oil City since she was two years old. She was home schooled for most of her elementary and high school years and graduated high school in 2017. During high school, she played varsity volleyball at Oil City High School and worked at the Oil City YMCA as a lifeguard.

Jessica pursues a communication degree with a marketing minor at Geneva College. She is a long distance runner and gets to enjoy this hobby at school by participating in the cross country and track teams.

Some of her achievements include being on the dean’s list every semester at Geneva College and helping to found a communication production club. Through this

club, she has also filmed campus wide promotional videos. Last year, she spent time working at The Derrick and The News-Herald as an advertising intern, where she helped to sell and design ads for the paper and various tabloids. She also works during the semester in the Geneva College PR and Marketing Services department.

When she is not running around Oil City or on the bike trail, Jessica enjoys reading, cooking, hiking at Oil Creek State Park, movies, and spending time with family and friends. This summer she can be found working at the Venango Chamber of Commerce.

One of her future goals is to “be just like my mom.” She also hopes to work in PR and Marketing helping companies further their mission statements and do what they do best. Jessica also hopes to travel more within the country and abroad, continue running, and have many adorable cats.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Get involved with FLEX by volunteering for an upcoming event this summer:

- **Oil Heritage Bike 'n Brew:** Saturday, July 20, Justus Park: We need help with biking activities, ticket sales, security, set up and tear down, and more. Volunteers get a t-shirt and a half price brewfest ticket.
- **Oil Heritage Ice Cream Social:** Thursday, July 25, 5 - 9 p.m., Central Ave Plaza: Volunteers scoop ice cream, give toppings, sell drinks, and help set up and tear down.

Please contact Marketing & Community Partnerships Chair Tessa at (814) 676-8521 or tbyham@venangochamber.org with questions or to sign up to volunteer.

Do you know of other volunteer opportunities FLEX members should know about? Please let Tessa know so we can spread the word.



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FLEX was out in the community throughout June at the Hiking Social, Poster Raid, volunteering at the Barrow-Civic Theatre, and FLEX Speaker Series. See below for upcoming events!



OUR MISSION

FLEX represents the needs and interests of Young Professionals by positioning ourselves as leaders, entrepreneurs and advocates for the sustainability of the Venango Area through civic engagement, leadership development, and networking.

Upcoming Events & Meetings:

- **Bike 'n Brew Meeting:** Monday, July 1, 5:30 p.m., Venango Chamber
- **Membership Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, July 9, 5 p.m., Spilling the Beans
- **Coffee Chat:** Friday, July 12, 7:30 - 9:00 a.m., Bossa Nova Café & Roastery, Franklin • Come when you can, Coffee and snacks are dutch treat
- **Monthly Meeting:** Monday, July 15, 5:30 p.m., Venango Chamber
- **Marketing Committee Meeting:** Postponed until August
- **Events Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, July 23, 5 p.m., Spilling the Beans
- **OHF Bike 'n Brew:** Saturday, July 20 • Free outdoor activities from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Brewfest from 4 p.m. - 8 p.m. • Learn more at ohfbikenbrew.org

Find more event details on our Facebook page:
facebook.com/VenangoFLEX

MEMBERSHIP

Any young professionals can attend FLEX events, but we invite you to become an official member! It's a one-time \$15 fee, and comes with a magnetic name tag, discounts, and other various benefits.

Interested in joining? Email Laura at laura.ordaz@mining.komatsu.

Connect with us:

