

FLEX Your Ideas

brought to you by the **future leaders & entrepreneurs exchange**

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Why Recognize Young Professionals?

As we are in the middle of planning our annual FLEX Presents event, recognition is on our minds. Why do we spend time and effort to recognize young professionals?

Giving to the community can be tireless. Spending hours volunteering and helping others includes large amounts of time and energy, but our communities depend on people being willing to do things they are not necessarily compensated for.



We recognize young professionals at FLEX Presents to provide:

- **Encouragement:** It motivates those recognized to continue working hard and lets them know their efforts have not gone unnoticed.
- **Inspiration:** It inspires other young professionals to follow in the footsteps of those being recognized, and can provide great examples of how to balance work, family, and community.
- **Acknowledgement:** It not only inspires others, but shows that there ARE young people making a difference and being successful in our community. We often hear negative talk about young professionals leaving the area, and this event is a perfect example of how that is untrue.



- **Awareness:** Recognition isn't only about the individual, it sheds light on the causes or organizations that nominees are involved with, helping others to learn more about them and hopefully inspiring more people to get involved with local organizations.

Recognition is about coming together to inspire and uplift individuals, organizations, and the entire community.

We hope you'll join us in recognizing young professionals at FLEX Presents on Friday, April 17, at Clarion University - Venango.

We will introduce all nominees in the April FYI newsletter. Learn more and RSVP by visiting venangochamber.org/flex-presents.

FLEX 
Presents
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS of the YEAR

"The Future of Venango Area Business!"



Jamie Stack grew up in the area and graduated from Oil City High School in 2017, then went on to earn her associate's degree in Physical Therapy Assistance from the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville.

She's currently waiting to take her Board Exam, and is working at two local, young professional owned businesses—Core Goods and Eckert Chiropractic.

"I enjoy how personable the jobs are," she said. "The coworkers and employers are very invested in their employees. I love much I have learned and how much I know they care about my growth."

At Core Goods, Jamie helps customers, cooks, keeps the store stocked, and more, and at Eckert Chiropractic, she helps with childcare and various office tasks.

Jamie recently got engaged and is excited to marry her fiancé, Devon. Other future plans include pursing a more full-time job.

She's not certain exactly where or in what field, but told us: "I am not limiting my future to what my degree is in. I want to achieve happiness in whatever life throws at me and wherever I am in the next few years."

In her free time, Jamie can almost always be found with Devon, usually outdoors biking, walking, hiking, kayaking, and basically anything else outside.

In Venango County, she enjoys experiencing the history and learning facts about how this area was created. She also appreciates the beautiful nature and close-knit community, and related it to Cheers—"You want to go where everybody knows your name."

Jamie is enjoying working in Venango County and is also excited to see where her future takes her.

Professional Development Tip of the Month: Email Communication

By Matt Slagle, FLEX Member & Inventory Accountant at Borchers Americas

There are many ways we communicate in today's world, but email is arguably the most valuable form of communication. Although it may be a simple hitting of the "reply" and "send" button, there are circumstances when using an email that could potentially sabotage your professional or personal reputation. Here are some tips to help manage and monitor your email:

- Proofread before sending:** Always do your due diligence and check your message before responding to ensure you are avoiding any misspelled words or grammatical errors. Taking the time to re-read a message is more important than being perceived as sloppy or careless.

- Consider the tone:** Communicating through email greatly inhibits expression and can cause misunderstandings. Without visual or auditory cues we receive through face-to-face conversations, an individual may interpret differently than intended. Think about how your email message "feels" and find ways to be less ambiguous in your response.



- Be aware of what you send/receive:** Making sure you are sending information to the correct personnel is very crucial. Review who the email should be addressed to, especially when providing sensitive or confidential information. Also, be aware of phishing attempts in receipt of an email. If an email has unfamiliar text, fonts, hyperlinks, email addresses, or other abnormalities, you should act on your instinct and make sure it is legitimate.

These simple steps can come in handy when sending emails, to ensure you are communicating well with others, both personally or professionally.

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Juliet Hilburn recently joined the team at the Northern Pennsylvania Regional College as Student Success Specialist. She graduated from Mercyhurst University in May 2018 with a bachelor's degree in history and earned a cumulative 4.0 GPA. In high school, she also graduated as Valedictorian.

Juliet was born and raised in Titusville, and continues to live here, though her position takes her all over Forest, Crawford, and Venango Counties.

She enjoys her new position and, looking to the future, hopes to continue as a higher education professional helping students succeed in their post-secondary careers. She also looks forward to continuing her own education by pursuing a master's degree in Communications or a related field.

In the community, Juliet serves on the Board of Directors for the Titusville Council on the Arts and plays flute in the Oil City volunteer ensemble Mostly Brass. She can also often be found reading and is a part of the Benson Memorial Library book club.

In college, Juliet had a minor in film studies, so she enjoys watching movies, especially at The Movies at Cranberry. She's a fan of local events, too, like BridgeFest in Oil City and AppleFest in Franklin.

"I very much wish to remain in the area where my family is located," Juliet told us. "Venango County is so scenic and beautiful at all times of the year."

Like many, Juliet loves the wooded hillsides and gorgeous historic architecture, as well as the people here. "It's nice to be greeted with a smile everywhere you go," she said.

Congratulations on the new position, Juliet, and welcome to FLEX!

Volunteer with FLEX!

The Marketing & Community Partnerships Committee has created a volunteer schedule for the next few months! We invite you to join FLEX in the community at the following opportunities:

Next Step Career Night: Thursday, March 26, 5 - 7:30 p.m. at Clarion University - Venango: Participate with FLEX in a panel about using social media, or hold mock interviews for students.

Oil City Clean Up Day: Wednesday, April 22: Join FLEX in sprucing up the downtown! A poll will be sent in the weekly email to determine the time FLEX will volunteer.

Titusville High School Career Day: Thursday, April 30: FLEX will be talking to students in a panel titled "The Importance of Community Involvement." We'll discuss ways to volunteer and network, to help in their careers.

Show at Barrow-Civic Theatre: Friday, May 1, 6 p.m.: We will usher, greet, take tickets, work the concession stand, and more, at the showing of Pippin. Afterwards, we get to watch the show for free!

Are you interested in volunteering at any of these upcoming events? Contact Tessa at tbyham@venangochamber.org.



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Coffee Chats are always a nice way to start the morning. Thanks to everyone who joined us in early February. We also had a lot of young professionals at the Chamber's Annual Dinner on February 19. Congratulations to FLEX member Jill Kellner for receiving recognition for Volunteer of the Year!



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:

- Yoga Social:** Thursday, March 5 | 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Trailasana, Oil City | \$10 per person | Registration required: members.venangochamber.org/events
- Marketing Committee Meeting:** Monday, March 9 | 12 p.m. | Venango Chamber
- St. Patty's Social:** Saturday, March 14 | 6 - 9 p.m. | Grumpy Goat Distillery, Franklin
- Membership Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, March 11 | 5:30 p.m. | Franklin Public Library (GED Room)
- Events Committee Meeting:** Wednesday, March 18 | 6:30 p.m. | Venango Chamber
- Speaker Series - Personal Finance:** Thursday, March 19 | 5:30 p.m. | Hoss's Steak

*Find more event details at facebook.com/VenangoFLEX
or members.venangochamber.org/events*

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Ryan Boshaw
Juliet Hilburn
Molly Minman

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

Connect with us:

