

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

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Recognizing Local Young Professionals—Virtual FLEX Presents

FLEX Presents, taking place in April of each year, will be moved online. Although the event will be different, we are looking forward to recognizing the many young professionals making a difference in our region.

We have 13 nominees who have been put forth by the community for their commitment to civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and leadership. These young professionals go above and beyond both in the community and their workplace.

Join us on Facebook Live on September 25, as we celebrate these young professionals and announce our 2020 Young Professional of the Year.

FLEX Presents
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS of the YEAR

Friday, September 25
6 - 7 p.m.
Facebook Live
(facebook.com/venangoflex)

Meet the Nominees:

REBECCA BEACH

Northwest Commission



Rebecca Beach is the Loan Program Manager at the Northwest Commission. She has been involved with FLEX for almost 10 years and serves on the Board of Directors for the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on boards/committees for the United Way of Venango County and Friends of Oil Creek State Park.

NATALIE CUBBON

Oil Region Library Association (ORLA)



Natalie Cubbon is the Projects Coordinator at the ORLA. She started as a Library Assistant in 2017 and in the past three years has implemented new initiatives and taken on additional responsibilities. Natalie is an ambassador for the Be Here program and recently became involved in Chamber events, such as Tech Talks.

LUKE BRAUGHLER

Child Development Centers (CDC)



Luke Braugler is the Venango/Crawford County Administrator at Child Development Centers (CDC). He is on committees for the Laurel Technical Institute, Crawford Career and Technical Center, and Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC). He has also been involved with local churches, leading a Men's Breakfast and assisting with church ministry.

DAN FLAHERTY

Oil Region Library Association (ORLA)



Dan Flaherty is Executive Director of the ORLA. He has used training from the "Turning Outward Initiative" to lead community conversations focused on identifying aspirations and concerns locally. Dan has been involved with the Pennsylvania Library Association, River Valley Disc Society, Bridge Builders Community Foundations, and FLEX, and is a graduate of Leadership Venango.

"The Future of Venango Area Business!"

ANGELA GRIFFIN

Hope 21



Angela Griffin is co-founder of Hope 21, a free clothing boutique in Oil City. She is a stay-at-home mom and uses her musical talent for the worship team at Crossing Free Methodist Church of Oil City and for music time at Good Hope Lutheran Church. Angela organizes her church's Operation Christmas Child, is a Girl Scout Troop Leader, and heads up child care at a women's bible study.

BOBBIE JONES

Trailasana Yoga Studio & Webco



Bobbie Jones is the owner of Trailasana Yoga Studio and the Human Resources Manager for Webco Industries. She has used her studio in many ways to strengthen our community. Bobbie serves on local committees for Clarion University Venango, United Way of Venango County, School and Industries Partnership Group, Oil City Main Street Program, and many more.

Jessica Hoffman

Massage Therapy by Jess



Jessica Hoffman owns her own private massage therapy practice—Massage Therapy by Jess. She has completed Yoga Teacher Training and teaches yoga in the community. Jessica is a board member at the YWCA, where she volunteers for events and created a fundraiser called the Detox & De-Stress Workshop. She is also a Youth Connections mentor and volunteer.

GREG LANDER

Klapec Trucking Company (KTC)



Greg Lander is Vice President of KTC in Reno, where his team has successfully moved many challenging loads and received multiple safety awards. He is an active member of St. Stephen Church and volunteer with St. Stephen School, and also serves on the board for the YMCA Scenic Rivers and is a volunteer for the YMCA.

JOANNA MCELHATTAN

Oil City Area School District



Joanna McElhattan is a Speech Language Pathologist at Oil City Area School District and a Dance Instructor at The Performing Arts Academy with Darin. She has been a youth group leader and also takes her therapy dog throughout the community to nursing homes, domestic violence shelters, the hospital, libraries, and more.



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Young Professional of the Year Nominees' bios have been shortened to fit this newsletter. Find their full bios by visiting:

venangochamber.org/2020-flex-nominees

LAURA ORDAZ

Komatsu Mining Corp.



Laura Ordaz is an Engineer at Komatsu Mining Corp. She is the Membership Committee Chair for FLEX and volunteers for organizations and events such as the Oil City Arts Council, Venango County Humane Society, and Fairy Enchanted Evening. Laura recently joined the board for the Barrow and United Way, and became a Rotary Member.

STEPHEN REINSEL

Wagner Family Eyecare



Stephen Reinsel is an Optometrist at Wagner Family Eyecare. He is president of the Northwest Optometric Society and member of the Pennsylvania & American Optometric Association. He is active in the Oil City Rotary Club and member and Bike 'n Brew committee member for FLEX. He is also a member of the Knights of Columbus and Oil City Boat Club.

COREY RITCHEY

Allegheny Inspections, LLC



Corey Ritchey is President and Chief Operating Officer at Allegheny Inspections, LLC. He is active in community organizations including the Franklin Civic Operetta Association, United Way of Venango County, Franklin Rotary Club, and Venango County Republican Committee. He is also involved in Associated Reporting Companies (ARCO).

ELIZABETH YALE

St. John's Episcopal Church



Elizabeth Yale is the Priest in Charge at St. John's Episcopal Church, where she has added many new initiatives and projects. Elizabeth started a BackPack Program for Central Elementary School and hosted Candlelight Prayer Vigils Against Gun Violence. She is involved in the Franklin Ministerium, FLEX, Franklin Rotary Club, and the Franklin Housing Authority.

Professional Development Tip: Networking Online

Events, meetings, and even family gatherings have been moved online. Something that usually involves a handshake and face-to-face communication, networking, is also something that now has to take place virtually. While it can be challenging to make the same connections online instead of in-person, here are some tips to help you as you attempt online networking:

- Target specific people to avoid wasted time. Focus on people who work at your dream company, fellow alumni whose careers you admire, and friends of friends.
- Track your network using a spreadsheet to stay organized and improve your ability to stay in touch with contacts.
- Reach out in the most effective and professional way. Choose email or LinkedIn over texting and social media, include information about yourself and reasoning for contacting them, and keep it concise and personal.
- Don't forget to follow up! Immediately send a thank you card and maybe a simple gift (such as a \$5 gift card or a book) and keep them posted about your career progress.



This was shortened to fit this newsletter. Find the full article at venangochamber.org/blog.

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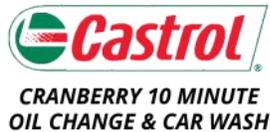
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This year's Bike 'n Brew was much different than expected, but our Curbside Pickup was a huge success! We had a great variety of local craft beer, along with awesome community support. Thank you to all our sponsors, participants, and volunteers!



THANK YOU SPONSORS



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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:

FLEX Presents: Friday, September 25 • 6 - 7PM • Virtual event
(Visit the FLEX Facebook to watch: [Facebook.com/VenangoFLEX](https://www.facebook.com/VenangoFLEX))

CONNECT WITH US:



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jennifer Hughes
Elicia Kifer

Interested in joining? Email our Membership Chair Laura Ordaz at laura.ordaz@mining.komatsu.