

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

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New Year, New Officers!

While we see still some familiar faces on FLEX leadership—Saxon, Laura, and Lyndsey—we're excited to also welcome new young professionals to the team this year!

We chatted with Joslyn Dechant, Membership Committee Chair; Jessica Wilson, Marketing & Community Partnerships Committee Chair; and Ivy Kuberry, Events & Fundraising Committee Vice-Chair, to get to know them and their goals for their committees.

What are you excited about for the new year?

Joslyn: I started a new job, so I'm excited about the challenges and opportunities it will bring. I'm also excited to work with FLEX leadership and continue building connections in the community.

Jessica: I am getting married in the spring, and my fiancé and I just bought a house and are working on fixing it up. I am also looking forward to participating in more FLEX volunteer and social events.

Ivy: I'm excited for another season at Oil Creek State Park with new programming, and learning more about my position in FLEX and growing relationships within the organization and community.



What are your goals for your committee?

Joslyn: Provide avenues for professional development through the Speaker Series and possibly a member round table event.

Jessica: Help bring some new ideas for social media calendars, and coordinate new partnerships with community organizations.

Ivy: Provide fun, diverse events that help to grow FLEX, foster strong relationships between members, and enhance members' connections with local businesses and organizations.

What do you hope to learn in this leadership experience?

Joslyn: I've been working remotely for two years and haven't had a leadership role in over three, so I'm hoping to dust off my old skillset and make it better.

Jessica: So far the biggest thing I've learned is how to jump into new meetings with confidence and focus to help out in any way I can.

Ivy: I hope to learn more about planning/organizing events and motivating people to be involved. I'm also looking forward to gaining leadership skills and learning about other young professionals here.

How do you stay organized?

Joslyn: A good old fashioned planner allows me to keep track of work, FLEX, and personal events in one place. My work calendar is in Outlook and my FLEX calendar is in Google. I'm a list maker and I find it easier for my brain to retain things if I write them down.

Jessica: Google Calendar is a lifesaver! We have a family one where we add all our events. I also have a personal planner where I have everything written down, which is helpful for remembering what is happening. I also love a good list to keep me focused.

Ivy: I update my calendar constantly to stay on top of everything. I also have a support system of coworkers, family, friends, and FLEX members who keep me up-to-date and offer help when I feel overwhelmed. It's very important to learn your limits and priorities, and accept help when you need it!

We look forward to having these new officers on our team, and can't wait to see all that they help FLEX accomplish in 2022. Welcome Joslyn, Jessica, and Ivy!



FLEX Feature:

Northwest Commission with Rebecca Beach

We started our new “FLEX Feature” series in January, and we’re excited to feature a young professional again! This time Rebecca Beach is sharing about a nonprofit—the Northwest Commission, located at 395 Seneca Street in Oil City.

Tell us about the Northwest Commission.

The Northwest Pennsylvania Regional Planning & Development Commission (Northwest Commission) was established in 1967 as a domestic nonprofit corporation for economic and business development as well as community development and planning. Funding for the Commission comes from local, state, and federal levels of government. The staff is dedicated to sustaining economic vitality and growth in the region by fostering local, state and federal partnerships across public and private sectors lines.

What areas does the Commission cover?

The agency was created to serve the eight-county region of Northwest Pennsylvania to include Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren counties.

What is your role at the organization?

I am the Loan Program Manager and administer and market the loan programs at the Commission. I work

with entrepreneurs, lenders, and economic development partners to meet the financing needs of small businesses in the eight-county region. I also supervise the loan program staff and work with our funding sources to manage the loan funds while facilitating client intake, underwriting, and packaging loan applications for review.

What is your favorite part about working for the Northwest Commission?

I really enjoy meeting with people, getting to know them and their goals and dreams, and assisting their small business in our region with growth, expansion, success

What would surprise people about the organization?

We are able to assist start-up businesses. They are not required to be in business for a certain period of time to be eligible to apply for potential assistance with financing. If they have a business plan, financial projections, and the necessary documentation we can process the request for consideration.

Is there anything else you’d like to share?

In addition to Business Financing, the Northwest Commission also offers International Sales, Government Contracting, Greenways Block Grants, Local Technical Assistance Program, Transportation Project Planning, Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) & U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) Grants and we serve as the Regional Coordinator for the Northwest Partnerships for Regional Economic Performance (PREP).

Thank you, Rebecca, for sharing with us for our second FLEX Feature! You can learn more about Northwest Commission at northwestpa.org.

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Member Profile: Joshua Tygert



Joshua Tygert is a Sr. Applications Engineer for Cadence Design Systems and works from home in Seneca, PA.

He received a Computer Engineering Degree from Geneva College in 2020 and was excited to find a tech job that allows remote work. At his job,

Josh is hoping to get patents approved for new programs he is developing.

When asked about his achievements, Josh told us one of them is: "Getting engaged to the beautiful Jessica Wilson." You may recognize Jessica's name, because she is our new FLEX Marketing & Community Partnerships

Committee Chair. Josh and Jessica will get married in just a few months, and look forward to moving into their new house and hosting friends and family there.

For fun, Josh enjoys hanging out with friends, playing board and card games, training for obstacle course races, and any water-related activities, especially kayaking and swimming. He is also a fan of hiking, running, and biking.

Josh is excited to be more involved in the community and told us: "I work remotely and enjoy the freedom it gives to live here and avoid traffic and big cities. It is easy to not only support small businesses but also get to know the people who run them."

YP of the Year Nominations



It's that time of year again—we are beginning to accept nominations for the Young Professional of the Year!

Each year, we invite the community to nominate young professionals who contribution to the region through civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and leadership.

Candidates must live or work in Venango County and are 18-39 years of age, participate in activities outside of work that make a difference in the well-being of others, and have exceptional ethical qualities and strive to improve and preserve the community.

We recognize all nominees and name the Young Professional of the Year at our FLEX Presents event, this year tentatively planned for Friday, April 29.

Find the nomination form as an insert in this newsletter, or by visiting venangochamber.org/flex-presents.

West Park Rehab

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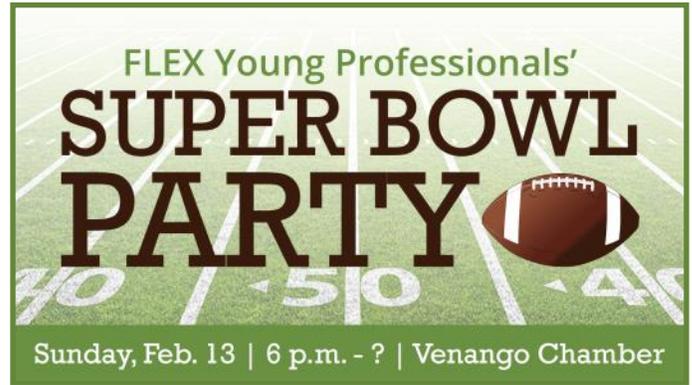
Upcoming Happenings: First Friday Lunch & Super Bowl Party

Some fun, new socials are on the FLEX calendar for February!
We hope you'll join us for one or both of these events:



Venango County young professionals are invited to join FLEX at our First Friday Lunch social on Friday, February 4, at Trails to Ales Brewery in Franklin!

Meet us at noon to network with other young professionals and support a local business. Lunch is dutch treat. Registration is not required, but if you plan to attend PLEASE RSVP on our [Facebook event](#), so we have an idea of how many people are coming.



Watch the Super Bowl with FLEX! We're holding a party at the Chamber with catering by Taco Shack. For those who don't love football but want to hang out, there will also be board games.

Our party begins at 6PM and we'll be here until the game ends, so stay the whole time or for a little. Registration is not required, but those who register and attend will be entered to win raffle prizes! Register at venangochamber.org/events.

February Events & Meetings:

First Friday Lunch: Friday, February 4 • 12 p.m. • Trails to Ales, Franklin

Events & Fundraising Committee: Monday, February 7 • 12 p.m. • Zoom

Super Bowl Party: Sunday, February 13 • Venango Chamber • 6 p.m. - ?

Marketing Committee: Thursday, February 24 • 4:15 p.m. • Zoom

FLEX Monthly Meeting: Monday, February 28 • 12 p.m. • Zoom

Contact us for meeting zoom links at flex@venangochamber.org, or find links in our Weekly Update email.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Carrie Lester
Jesse Worsk

Interested in joining?

Email the FLEX Membership Committee Chair Joslyn Dechant at joslyn.dechant@gmail.com or join online: VenangoFLEX.org.

FLEX 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.

CONNECT WITH US: VenangoFLEX.org • flex@venangochamber.org

