

# FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

## FYI

brought to you by the future leaders & entrepreneurs exchange

Volume 10 | Issue 5 | May 2022

## Celebrating Young Professionals at FLEX Presents

*Congratulations Stephanie Staub, 2022 Young Professional of the Year*

Educators, librarians, business owners, non-profit leaders, county employees, and more were celebrated at FLEX Presents on Friday, April 29. These young professionals were nominated for their contributions to Venango County and received much-deserved recognition at the event at DeBence Antique Music World in Franklin.

Special congratulations to Stephanie Staub, who was named this year's Young Professional of the Year.

"I'm extremely honored to receive such an important award and grateful for the recognition I have received," said Stephanie. "While I love to travel the world, it's always nice to come home to this region, the place I've always called home and will continue to call home."

Stephanie is a K-4 STEM Teacher and Technology Integrator for the Oil City Area School District and has gone above and beyond in her teacher duties. She has applied for and received numerous grants, participated in multiple trainings,



been involved with many organizations and associations, and attended and presented at educational conferences.

Stephanie has held many positions in school athletics, is a teacher for a summer program called Kids in College, and is currently working on an event called "Books and Bikes" at Oil Creek State Park, as part of Remake Learning Days.

Besides her involvement in education, Stephanie is a teacher at Trailasana Yoga Studio, runs a small t-shirt and earring business called Steph's Silhouettes, and also opened Staub & Co. Succulents, a greenhouse business that travels to events and shows.

Although Stephanie was named Young Professional of the Year, FLEX holds this event to celebrate all young professionals who make a difference in our region.

Other nominees included: Becky Deeter, Jessica Hilburn, Kieran Irwin, Will Price, Aaron Ritsig, Andrew Ritsig, Ashley Smith, Megan Weber, and Devin Zagar, and Jennifer Mosher-Johnson.

More photos from the event will be shared on the FLEX Facebook at [facebook.com/VenangoFLEX](https://facebook.com/VenangoFLEX), and all nominee bios can be found at [venangochamber.org/flex-presents](https://venangochamber.org/flex-presents).

*Congratulations to these young professionals and thank you for all you do for our community!*



*"The Future of Venango Area Business!"*



# FLEX Feature: Oil Region Library Association with Zoe Oakes

We're back this month with our FLEX Feature article and this time we talked with Zoe Oakes, Branch Manager of the Franklin Public Library.

## Tell us about the Oil Region Library Association.

The Oil Region Library Association (ORLA) is a non-profit organization that was established in 2015 with the intention of taking over the governance of local public libraries. This partnership collectively brought together all public libraries in Venango County (Franklin, Oil City, and Cooperstown) under the governance of one organization for the first time ever.

## What is your role at ORLA?

I serve as the Branch Manager of the Franklin Public Library, where I am in charge of stewardship of the building and the collection it holds. I help build partnerships with local businesses and organizations to help spread awareness of what is available to and in the community, beyond the walls of the library.

## What is your favorite part about working with this organization?

I am proud to be a member of ORLA. I am passionate about helping patrons get the fullest use of their time at the library and promoting resources available when the physical libraries are closed. It is a pleasure to share in comradery between patrons and staff—sharing personal anecdotes, offering advice, and of course discussing the latest James Patterson novel!

## What would surprise people about ORLA?

The libraries have traditional print material, but also an every expanding collection of "realia." These are one-time-use, expensive, or risky items to offset costs to community members. Going to Two Mile Run Park? Check out a Metal Detector and GPS and go Geocaching! Doing household repairs or DIY? Check out a power drill and auto-leveling lase/stud finder. Want to meet friends in the virtual world for a Beat Saber competition? Check out an Oculus Quest 2.

## Is there anything else you'd like to share?

The Franklin Public Library is celebrating 100 years of serving the public on Friday, June 17, 2022. The community is invited to help with the planning and implementation of the festivities. Please contact your local ORLA branch for additional information.

*Thank you, Zoe, for sharing about the Oil Region Library Association and your role at the Franklin Public Library! You can learn more about ORLA at [oilregionlibraries.org](http://oilregionlibraries.org).*



**Tuesday, May 24**  
**5:30 PM**  
**Venango Chamber**

**TOPIC: Foundations for Effective Communication**

*Interactive workshop with **Hind T. Karns**,  
Managing Director of **WEMANIGIT***

Learn more & register:  
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## Member Profile: Kelly Daugherty



Kelly Daugherty is an Intern Architect at Amos E. Rudolph Architecture, LLC, based in Seneca, PA. She attended Kent State University, where she graduated with a bachelor's degree in 2020 and master's degree in 2022, both through the College of Architecture & Environmental Design.

In 2019, Kelly participated on a team that competed and won first place at the Harbin Institute of Technology International Ice & Snow Innovation Design & Construction Competition in Harbin, China, an international competition for the design and construction of an ice pavilion. One of Kelly's main professional goals is licensure. She recently began the process to become a licensed Architect for the state of PA, which will take a few years.

Kelly is originally from Knox in Clarion County, where she continues to reside today, and she's looking

forward to investing in new relationships and becoming a familiar face in our region.

In her free time, she likes being outdoors and exercising, whether it's hiking, biking, kayaking, or playing with her puppy. She especially loves hiking and cross-country skiing at Oil Creek State Park. Kelly is also a fan of painting and drawing, loves a relaxing movie night, and is often found visiting local breweries and restaurants with friends and family.

"This is a unique place to work as an architectural designer. Working at a small, rural firm creates a lot of opportunity to connect with local organizations and business owners and work on meaningful projects," Kelly told us.

"I am already given quite a bit of responsibility which allows me to be a part of all project phases, from conceptual design to construction. One of my favorite parts of working here is seeing how the visions that people have for this area can become a reality."

## Save the Date! 2022 Bike 'n Brew

We're excited to announce that this year's Oil Heritage Festival Bike 'n Brew will be on Saturday, July 16th!

The 2022 event will be hybrid, similar to last year. It will include a cooler tote bag full of local craft beer and other fun items, and a limited number of tickets will be available for an in-person beer tasting.



The Bike 'n Brew Committee is meeting Wednesday, May 4, at 6 p.m. at Scierka's Tavern and invites anyone interested in helping plan the event to attend.



If you plan to come to the meeting or would like to learn more about getting involved, contact us at [flex@venangochamber.org](mailto:flex@venangochamber.org).

Find updates for Bike 'n Brew at [ohfbikenbrew.org](http://ohfbikenbrew.org).

## West Park Rehab

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## Event Photos: First Friday Lunch, Clean-Up Day & FLEX Presents



Find more FLEX Presents photos on our Facebook page at [Facebook.com/VenangoFLEX](https://www.facebook.com/VenangoFLEX).

## May Events & Meetings:

**Bike 'n Brew Committee:** Wednesday, May 4 • 6 p.m. • Scierka's, Oil City

**First Friday Lunch:** Friday, May 6 • 12 p.m. • Leonardo's, Franklin

**Events & Fundraising Committee:** Tuesday, May 17 • 12 p.m. • Zoom

**FLEX Monthly Meeting:** Monday, May 23 • 12 p.m. • Zoom

**Speaker Series:** Tuesday, May 24 • 5:30 p.m. • Venango Chamber

**Marketing Committee:** Thursday, May 26 • 4:15 p.m. • Zoom

*Contact us for meeting zoom links at [flex@venangochamber.org](mailto:flex@venangochamber.org), or find links in our Weekly Update email.*

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Taleah Britsch  
Jena Hollidge  
Theresa VanWormer

#### Interested in joining?

Email the FLEX Membership Committee Chair Joslyn Dechant at [joslyn.dechant@gmail.com](mailto:joslyn.dechant@gmail.com) or join online: [VenangoFLEX.org](https://www.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](https://www.VenangoFLEX.org) • [flex@venangochamber.org](mailto:flex@venangochamber.org)

