

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

brought to you by the future leaders & entrepreneurs exchange

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Celebrating Young Professionals at FLEX Presents

Congratulations Brad Deeter, 2023 Young Professional of the Year

FLEX Presents brought together local leaders, community members, family, and friends to honor 13 remarkable individuals who have made significant contributions to our community. Their dedication and efforts have positively impacted the community in meaningful ways that deserve recognition.

Special congratulations to this year's Young Professional of the Year, Brad Deeter.

Brad has a long resume of professional achievements and generous community service.

Since 1998, Brad has been a Fireman at the Utica Volunteer Fire Department (UVFD) and was awarded a Lifetime Membership due to 25 years of service to the community. He became President of UVFD over 5 years ago. He has also served for 8 years as a PA Department of Forestry Fire Warden along with obtaining his EMT certification, leading him to become an Assistant Ambulance Captain.

Brad has also volunteered as a board member of the Venango County Fairgrounds since 2002 and has been



board President since 2015. He is a Penn State 4-H leader and Sugarcreek United Methodist Church member.

While accepting his award, Brad said: "Congratulations to all the nominees for their service and activity in our community. I take pride in helping our community. I have been very involved in our fire department it gives me a great honor to help people in need in their darkest days. I do have a great passion for the Venango County Fair as well. I want to keep it going for my kids and my grandkids. We've made many improvements, and I'm proud to have been a part of that for the past 20 years.

Thank you to my Mom and Dad for giving me an excellent start in

life and guiding me down the right track. Also, thank you to my wife and kids for putting up with me running away from the dinner table for an emergency call or spending most of my summers at the fairgrounds. Thank you all for this great honor."

Other nominees included: Will Price, Jennifer Stevenson, Ashleigh Bennett, Brandon Boocks, Katie Ferricks, Amariliz Sanchez, Kelly Daugherty, Matt Gustafson, Mike Dulaney, Kyle Peasley, Nick Howard, and Bridey Keller.

Congratulations to all of these young professionals!

More photos have been shared on our Facebook page and can be found at facebook.com/VenangoFLEX



"The Future of Venango Area Business!"



FLEX Feature:

Lessons with Ashleigh with Ashleigh Bennett

Tell us about Lessons with Ashleigh.

I'm a musician and music instructor and have been actively teaching since 2016. At the end of 2022, I opened Lessons with Ashleigh, so I could provide private lessons to the Venango and Clarion areas. I'm very passionate about cultivating the same love I've had for music in the next generation.

What is your role at the business?

I am the owner and teacher! I currently offer lessons on piano, guitar, ukelele, baritone ukelele, and also in songwriting at studios in downtown Franklin and in Knox.

What is your favorite part about your job?

My favorite part of my job is a toss up between getting to teach people a new form of self expression and getting to know a wide variety of people and their unique personalities. I have the best students!

What would surprise people about this company?

I have studios in both Venango and Clarion County! When I started this business, I wanted to be able to reach a broader number of people, so I opened up a space in Knox in addition to my Franklin studio.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about Lessons with Ashleigh?

Music lessons are for anyone! I have students ranging from 5 years old to students in their seventies, and it's a privilege to work with all of them.

*Learn more on Ashleigh's website:
lessonswithashleigh.com*

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Upcoming Events

May 5 - First Friday Lunch - El Toro

Meet us at noon to network with other young professionals and support a local business. Lunch is Dutch treat.



Member Profile: Britney Donato



Britney Donato is the Business Development Representative for Strategic Connections, a marketing and communications firm in Tionesta.

Britney has her Sales Manager Certification and Sales Leadership Certification through the Project Management Institute, as well as her Emergency Medical Technician Certification through the Indiana University of Pennsylvania and Advanced Emergency Medical Technician Certification through Butler Community College.

When asked about her achievements, Britney noted her Advanced Emergency Medical Technician National Registry License.

Britney's future goals include seeing herself excel in her current position for many years to come and increasing her networking circle.

Her hobbies include jet skiing and traveling with her family.

Britney enjoys all the wonderful restaurants that Venango County has to offer, and when asked what she likes about working in the County, she shared "I love that we work in a beautiful place that offers natural beauty, and a safe environment for our children."

Welcome to FLEX, Britney!

More Photos from FLEX Presents



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Find more on Facebook at [Facebook.com/VenangoFLEX](https://www.facebook.com/VenangoFLEX)

"The Future of Venango Area Business!"

Event Photos: FLEX Presents



April Events & Meetings:

Marketing Committee: Thursday, May 4 • 12 p.m. • Zoom

First Friday Lunch: Friday, May 5 • 12 p.m. • El Toro, Cranberry

Events & Fundraising Committee: Monday, May 15 • 5:30 p.m. • Zoom

FLEX Monthly Meeting: Monday, May 22 • 12 p.m. • Zoom

Find more event details on our Facebook page or in our Weekly Update email.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jacy Blum
Haley Bechtel
Mara Foster-Grey
Ben Grey
Corey Piel
Anna Campbell-Sowden
Drayke Karges

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

