

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

brought to you by the future leaders & entrepreneurs exchange

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Future Leader Summit of Northwest Pennsylvania



We are excited to extend an invitation to you for the Inaugural Future Leader Summit of Northwest Pennsylvania. This event is for young professionals, providing a platform for regional networking and collaboration while fostering and promoting a vibrant young professional culture.

Unlocking the Power of Regional Networking and Collaboration

At FLEX, we understand the importance of networking and community engagement for young professionals. That's why we're thrilled to be a part of this event. It's an excellent opportunity to connect and share ideas with fellow young professionals and community leaders from across NW PA. Participating YP groups include those from Mercer, Erie, Lawrence, Butler, Clarion, and Venango Counties.

The Summit will feature three parts.

1) Keynote Presentations: Gain invaluable insights and advice from keynote speakers representing each county.

2) Panel Discussions: Engage in stimulating conversations during panel discussions on specific topics and trends.

3) Networking Opportunities: Connect with fellow young professionals from across Northwest Pennsylvania.

The Future Leader Summit promises to be an event unlike any other, where you can build bridges, learn, share experiences, and shape the future of young professional culture in our region. We invite you to get your tickets and mark your calendars:

All interested young professionals are welcome! The first 15 FLEX members in good standing to purchase tickets will get a \$15 Sheetz gift card.

Get your tickets at bit.ly/YPSummitNWPA

Event Details

Cost: \$35

Date: Thursday, October 12th

Time: 5 PM - 9 PM EDT

Location: Avalon Country Club

Buhl Park in Hermitage





FLEX Feature: Franklin Insurance with Theresa VanWormer

Tell us about Franklin Insurance.

Franklin Insurance Agency is located in downtown Franklin. We are an independent insurance agency, which allows us to work with a wide variety of reputable insurance companies to satisfy your needs. We don't work for the insurance companies, we work for you!

What is your role at Franklin Insurance?

My role as an Agent and Customer Service Representative at Franklin Insurance is to help individuals, families, and businesses with their income, retirement, and protection planning.

Additionally, I specialize in creating individualized and comprehensive financial snapshots for clients.

What is your favorite part about your job?

The community involvement! Everyone at Franklin Insurance Agency is invested in making our local community thrive. We are passionate about supporting small local businesses. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, our agency partnered with the Franklin Retail Association and gave away thousands of dollars in Franklin Retail Association gift cards that could be used at local businesses. In 2022, Erie Insurance awarded us the "Giving Agency of the Year" award and made a \$3,000 donation to the The Arc in our honor.

What would surprise people about Franklin Insurance?

We are 100% employee owned! Being part of an employee owned company has advantages for both the employees and the consumers. Studies show customers receive greater value when working with an employee owned company. Employee ownership offers employees the opportunity to feel personally invested in the success of the company, which leads to better service to our consumers.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about the business?

We offer all types of coverage needs including auto, home, life, business, and health insurance as well as provide a full service notary.

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Member Profile: Mara Foster-Gray



Mara Foster-Gray works as a Field Services Case Manager at the Venango County Association for the Blind. With a BA in Psychology from Edinboro University and currently pursuing a Masters in Vision Rehabilitation from Salus University, Mara is dedicated to meeting the vision needs of individuals

in her community. Mara's acceptance into the VRT program at Salus is a recent accomplishment that will enable her to provide crucial services to those in need. Upon completing the Salus VRT Masters Program and obtaining the ACVREP VRT Certification, Mara will collaborate with her agency director to establish a VRT service program that will not only benefit their local agency, but also other organizations in the NWPA region.

Mara finds joy in connecting with the community as part of her work. She deeply appreciates the individuals she serves, acknowledging the profound impact that a pair of glasses can have on a child's life or the transformative changes that resources and skill-building can bring to those with low vision or blindness.

Outside of work, Mara cherishes spending time with her family and the "bonus family" she has built. She's a doting dog mom and she also loves spoiling her nieces and nephews. Mara enjoys art, spending time outside, and traveling. The scenic beauty of Venango is what Mara treasures most about living in the area. Whenever friends and family visit, she introduces them to her favorite spots, such as Kennerdell and Freedom Falls. To Mara, Venango County is a beautiful place to call home.

Welcome to FLEX, Mara!

Volunteer: Cranberry Festival

FLEX is volunteering at Cranberry Festival this year! We invite you to join us on Saturday, September 16, at the Cranberry Mall. We'll be helping with children's activities, selling tickets for raffles, and more.

Volunteer shifts are 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Sign up by emailing flex@venangochamber.org or by calling the Chamber at 814-676-8521.



Coffee Chat: Iron Furnace 9/8



Join us for a morning of networking and coffee at the Iron Furnace in Franklin.

Discover more about our group and connect with fellow young professionals while indulging in delicious coffee, tea, and food.

Drop by anytime between 7-9 a.m. Food and drinks are dutch treat. Bring your coworkers and friends as this is open to the public.

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"The Future of Venango Area Business!"

Event Photos: FLEX Intern Appreciation Luncheon & Venango Campus Welcome Day



SEPTEMBER Events & Meetings:

Marketing Committee: Thursday, September 7 • 12 p.m. • Zoom

Coffee Chat: Friday, September 8 • 7-9 a.m. • Iron Furnace Coffee, Franklin

Cranberry Festival: Saturday, Sept. 16 • Cranberry Mall

- Volunteer shifts - 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 1 to 4:30 p.m.
- Sign up by emailing flex@venangochamber.org or by calling 814-676-8521

Events & Fundraising Committee: Monday, September 18 • 5:30 p.m. • Zoom

FLEX Monthly Meeting: Monday, September 25 • 12 p.m. • Zoom

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Tyler VanWormer
Kyle Gabler**

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

