

# FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

## FYI

brought to you by the future leaders & entrepreneurs exchange

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## FLEX Reflects on Another Successful Year

As we bid farewell to 2023, it's time to reflect on a remarkable year with FLEX filled with laughter, opportunities, growth, and unforgettable moments. Let's journey through some highlights that made this past year memorable.

### Connecting & Celebrating:

The annual cornerstone event, "FLEX Presents," showcased the outstanding contributions of young professionals shaping Venango County. Events Chair Ivy Kuberry said, "My favorite event is FLEX Presents because I love recognizing and celebrating young professionals who work to make Venango County a better place." Recognizing and celebrating our region's young professionals is a crucial acknowledgment of those driving the future of our community.

### Summer Vibes:

The Summer Kickoff brings FLEX members together at Two Mile County Park for an evening of camping, good food, and the camaraderie that defines FLEX. For many, the kayaking trip was a

standout—a chance to forge deep connections on the water. "On this trip, I got to know my FLEX peers better. I quickly felt like part of the FLEX family," reflected Jacy Blum.

### Annual Meeting:

The Annual Meeting was a night to remember, blending voting on new leadership with delicious food, engaging trivia, and the simple joy of spending time with fellow FLEX members. "My favorite event for FLEX this year was the annual meeting. I loved the food, the trivia, and just hanging out with other FLEX members," shared Dan Newbury.

### Community Involvement:

Oil City Cleanup Day saw FLEX members contributing to cleaning up one of our communities. Devin Zagar said, "This is one of my favorite events because it provides an opportunity for us to help in a meaningful way. We are in the streets actively volunteering to better our community."

### Other Events:

From Bike N' Brew, Dinner and a Show, the Super Bowl Party, First Friday Lunches, and the Speaker Series—Opportunities for networking, learning, and camaraderie are endless. Other events included the St. Patrick's Day Social, Halloween Social, Trunk or Treat, the Ugly Sweater Party and Donation Drive, Coffee Chats, and more!

### Building on Success:

FLEX is poised for another year of growth and impact in 2024. The connections made, the celebrations shared, and the sense of community fostered in 2023 will undoubtedly lay the foundation for an even more remarkable year to come.

Here's to the memories, the friendships, and the shared accomplishments of 2023 and to the exciting journey that awaits FLEX in the future.

Cheers to another year of connection and celebration!



*"The Future of Venango Area Business!"*

# Unlocking Success: How AI Empowers Young Professionals in Today's World

In today's fast-paced world, technology is constantly advancing. With the integration of artificial intelligence (AI), young professionals are discovering a game-changing tool that revolutionizes their professional landscapes.

Let's talk about benefits of AI for young professionals. First, AI boosts productivity and efficiency like never before. By automating repetitive tasks, AI-powered tools like Notion, free up your time, allowing you to focus on more meaningful responsibilities. Whether it's analyzing complex information, automating emails, or sorting through large datasets, AI algorithms execute tasks quickly and accurately.

AI also empowers your decision-making skills. In today's data-driven world, AI helps you process vast amounts of information, extract valuable insights, and predict future trends. With these insights in hand, you gain a competitive edge by understanding consumer behavior, market trends, and operational efficiencies.




Continuous learning is essential for career advancement. AI-powered educational platforms and tools like Syntea and Tutor.ai provide personalized learning experiences tailored to individual needs. Adaptive learning algorithms ensure customized content, identify your strengths and weaknesses, and receive targeted training. This personalized approach accelerates your skill development and keeps you adaptable in an ever-evolving job market.

In any professional setting, effective teamwork and communication are vital. AI-powered tools like Grammarly and Jasper enhance collaboration by improving communication. From virtual assistants to AI-powered translation tools, these innovations foster a more interconnected and collaborative work environment. Otter.ai is another tool that converts spoken language into written text, which can be helpful for transcribing lectures or class discussions.

Now, let's address the ethical side of AI integration. While AI has transformative potential, it also raises ethical concerns. As a young professionals, we have an important role in advocating for responsible AI usage and need to be part of these discussions. Transparency, fairness, and accountability must be prioritized in AI systems, and ethical considerations should guide your decision-making processes.

In conclusion, AI can be a valuable asset for young professionals. By embracing AI, you gain unparalleled opportunities for growth, innovation, and efficiency. It's not just about streamlining processes, but also nurturing a culture of adaptability and continuous learning. As the professional landscape evolves, proactive integration of AI will be a defining factor in success across diverse industries.



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## Member Profile: Elizabeth Akam



Elizabeth Akam is a self-employed curator with a passion for supporting local artists and sellers. Elizabeth's education background is in Business Administration from Edinboro University.

Elizabeth has successfully planned and coordinated numerous vendor events in the Oil City area.

Her achievements also include being accepted to participate in the prestigious Pittsburgh Vintage Mixer, the largest vintage event in the Pittsburgh area.

But Elizabeth's ambitions don't stop there. She has goals of transforming her small business into her full-time job. In her free time, she immerses herself in Bible education and has a love for vintage fashion. Spending time with family is also a top priority for Elizabeth.

Currently residing in Venango County, Elizabeth has a favorite spot in Oil City: Woods and River, where she loves to grab a coffee and visit friends. She's also quick to mention that she loves how people in Venango County have a strong sense of community.

Elizabeth is eager to learn about shows and programs that could benefit her unique business in this area.

Welcome to FLEX, Elizabeth!

## FLEX PRESENTS: NOMINATION FORMS COMING IN FEBRUARY

FLEX Presents is an annual event that celebrates and honors the achievements of local young professionals who are contributing to their community through civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and leadership.

We recognize the value of retaining our talented and motivated young people, and one great way to do this is by recognizing those who are choosing to work and volunteer here now.

In February, we will be accepting nominations for Young Professional of the Year, so we encourage you to keep an eye out for outstanding individuals under age 40 that you come across in your daily life. By recognizing and appreciating these individuals, we are investing in the future of our region.

For more details on how to nominate someone check out next month's February FYI newsletter.



*Pictured Left from 2023:*

*FLEX Presents Nominees & YP of the Year, Brad Deeter*



### FLEX FACEBOOK GROUP



If you're a FLEX member, you have access to our Facebook group! Here you can find:

- News or updates from members
- Invitations to events
- Opportunities to volunteer & much more!

*Contact us if you haven't been added!*

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## Event Photos: Ugly Holiday Sweater Party



We had a great time at this season's FLEX Ugly Sweater Party! Thank you FoxTales Pub for being such excellent hosts and thank you to everyone who brought donation drive items for the Saint Elizabeth Center and Precious Paws!



## January: Events & Meetings

**Marketing Committee:** Thursday, January 11 • Noon • Zoom

**Dinner & Show Social:** Saturday, January 13 • 5:30 p.m. • Bella Cucina & Barrow-Civic Theatre • 6 Seats Left for FLEX Members Only • Register at [venangochamber.org/events](http://venangochamber.org/events) or by emailing [flex@venangochamber.org](mailto:flex@venangochamber.org)

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

**Membership Committee:** TBD • Zoom

**FLEX Monthly Meeting:** Monday, January 22 • 12 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.*

**New Members:**  
Ashtyn Fellows

**Interested in joining?**  
Email the FLEX Membership Committee Chair  
Juliet Hilburn  
[Juliet.hilburn@gmail.com](mailto:Juliet.hilburn@gmail.com)  
or join online:  
[VenangoFLEX.org](http://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](http://VenangoFLEX.org) • [flex@venangochamber.org](mailto:flex@venangochamber.org)

