

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

brought to you by the future leaders & entrepreneurs exchange

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FLEX to Recognize Young Professionals - Friday, April 19

Our annual young professional recognition event, FLEX Presents, is set for Friday, April 19, at the Wanango Country Club in Reno, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Join us in celebrating our region's talented young professionals who deserve recognition for their entrepreneurial spirit, dedication to improving our communities, and exemplary leadership. The highlight of the evening will be announcing one deserving young professional as the 2024 Young Professional of the Year! FLEX Presents is a public event and you don't have to be a FLEX member to join in the



celebration!

"This is an inspirational evening to celebrate not only the 10 nominees, but all local young professionals who go above and beyond for our region," said FLEX liaison Ashley Smith.

You can find biographies for this year's nominees in this FYI edition.

Please come out to support the nominees and help us celebrate their achievements.

The event will include hors d'oeuvres, drinks, networking and a presentation about FLEX and this year's nominees.

Tickets for the event are \$25. RSVP at venangochamber.org/events or contact the Chamber at flex@venangochamber.org or (814) 676-8521.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available! Find the form at venangochamber.org/flex-presents.

CONGRATULATIONS NOMINEES!

Eli Busch
Devin Forgey
Miranda Heller
Thomas Holoman

Amariliz Sanchez
SaVanha Scott
Kat Thompson
Tyler Vanwormer

Deanna Wolfgong
Kelsey Ziegler

Find bios on inside pages →

These 10 nominees were put forward by community members for their commitment to Venango County through civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and leadership.

ELI BUSCH



a Part Owner at Kingdom Guard Financial Group/Excellence Accounting Solutions, collaborates with business owners and individuals to achieve financial and personal goals. With two teammates, he co-owns and operates the businesses. Notable achievements include expanding his team during his tenure at Western and Southern Life, founding a financial brokerage shop, renovating a business complex, and expanding operations to include additional services and employees. Eli is also actively involved in various community organizations and initiatives.

DEVIN FORGEY



serves as a second-grade teacher at Hasson Heights Elementary in the Oil City Area School District, aiming to nurture academic growth and character development in young learners. He mentors new teachers and holds leadership roles in the teachers union. Devin actively participates in school events, coaches Junior High Golf, and previously coached football. Outside of school, he contributes to Guardian Grappling, works as a personal trainer, teaches Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, and leads STEM summer programs at the Venango County Museum.

MIRANDA HELLER



serves as an Educational Representative at Northern Pennsylvania Regional College, advocating for accessible academic programs and workforce training in Venango County. With bachelor's degrees in Geology, Environmental Science, and secondary Earth and Space Science, she brings expertise to her role. Miranda has been a member of the Oil Region Astronomical Society for 13 years, organizing numerous astronomy education programs for both children and adults.

THOMAS HOLOMAN



serves as the Franklin Jr./Sr. High School Principal, dedicated to fostering a culture of learning and providing professional development for staff. He ensures students have diverse academic, athletic, and social opportunities, overseeing curriculum, budgeting, safety, and planning. Under his leadership, the Franklin Area School District earned recognition as a Pennsylvania Great School. Thomas is completing a doctorate and will teach graduate courses at Westminster College. He also serves as a PIAA Football Official and supports various school clubs to enrich student experiences.

AMARILIZ SANCHEZ




serves as Administrative Assistant at PennWest Venango Campus, supporting various initiatives like the Viability Focus Group and campus transfer to the Oil Region Alliance. She advises the Venango Campus Activities Board and is pursuing a Conflict Resolutions Master's with a 4.0 GPA. A founding member of Together We Can of Venango, she's active in DEI education events and serves on boards including Youth Connections and Pellere Foundation, earning the 2021 Volunteer of the Year Award.

SAVANHA SCOTT



works as an Accounts Payable Specialist at Deets Mechanical, managing all payables, receivables, and daily business operations. Beyond her role, she serves as Vice President of the Cranberry Cheerleading Booster Club and volunteers at community events like wine walks and clean-up days. Additionally, she actively participates in church activities, assisting with kids programs, retreats, Vacation Bible School, and youth groups.



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KAT THOMPSON



serves as the Membership & Education Manager at the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce, focusing on expanding membership and fostering relationships with current members. She oversees VenangoREADY and ForestREADY career programs, collaborating with local schools and businesses to prepare students for the workforce. Kat is active in Oil City's Main Street Program and Friends of Oil Creek State Park. She recently completed her second year at the Institute for Organization Management at Villanova.

TYLER VANWORMER



serves as the Personal Lines Producer at Franklin Insurance, specializing in acquiring new business and addressing community members' personal insurance requirements. Franklin Insurance Agency earned Erie Insurance's Giving Agency of the Year Award in 2022. Tyler actively participates in various community activities including Franklin Rotary, Flex, Oil City YMCA Dek Hockey, Franklin's Light Up Night Parade, and volunteering for the annual apple pancake breakfast at St. Patrick's Church in Franklin.

DEANNA WOLFGONG



wears multiple hats as the owner and music therapist of DS Music Therapy, and a lead music instructor at Porch Music Store. In her therapeutic role, she assesses, evaluates, and treats clients, while also pursuing licensure as a Professional Counselor. As an instructor, she offers music lessons for all ages, teaching piano, voice, ukulele, and guitar. Deanna is also active in the community, serving on the FCOA Board of Directors at Barrow Civic Theatre and chairing the Education Committee while coordinating the Barrow Theatre Institute.

KELSEY ZIEGLER



serves as a Legal Services Initiative Paralegal at Voce, focusing on aiding Venango County in securing permanency for children in the welfare system. Beyond her professional role, she's deeply engaged in 4-H, holding leadership positions in various capacities. Kelsey actively volunteers for community initiatives such as distributing milk with the United Way during the pandemic and supporting fundraising events for the Emlenton Volunteer Fire Department. She's recently honored for three years of leadership in the Venango County 4-H program.

Find full bios at venangochamber.org/flex-presents

Join us at Oil City Clean-Up Day!

FLEX is volunteering with the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce staff for the 12-4PM shift for Oil City's Clean-Up Day on Wednesday, April 17th.

We invite you to join us for a short time during your lunch break, or during the whole shift!

If you can volunteer, please email us at flex@venangochamber.org. If you can volunteer after work in the evening, please take a photo and tag FLEX with the hashtag #FLEXinthecommunity



Follow FLEX on Facebook

Don't forget to like and follow FLEX on Facebook for the most up to date information about upcoming events!

Our goal is to get to 1,500 Followers by the end of 2024! Help us by inviting your friends to follow our page as well.

Locally roasted coffee - Loose leaf tea - Homemade baked goods - Trail-friendly lodging

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woodsandrivercoffee@gmail.com

Open Daily
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"The Future of Venango Area Business!"

Event Photos: VenangoReady Event & Strategic Marketing Meeting



April Events & Meetings:

Events & Fundraising Committee: Monday, April 8 • 5:30 p.m. • Zoom

Marketing Committee: Thursday, April 11 • Noon • Zoom

Oil City Clean-Up Day: Wednesday, April 17 • 12-4 p.m. • Downtown Oil City • Email flex@venango.org to sign up to volunteer with us!

FLEX Presents: Friday, April 19 • 6:00-8:00 p.m. • Wanango Country Club • Register at venangochamber.org/events

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

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

New Members:

Mitch Littler
Thomas Holoman
Kara O'Neil
Jesse Seymour

Interested in joining?

Email the FLEX Membership Committee Chair
Juliet Hilburn
Juliet.hilburn@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

