

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

brought to you by the **future leaders & entrepreneurs exchange**



On March 28th, Future Leaders and Entrepreneurs Exchange celebrates the fourth anniversary of FLEX Presents, a black tie gala to commemorate the dedication of young professionals in our community. In collaboration with the Venango Chamber of Commerce, FLEX Presents was created in 2010 with the goal of helping our community reimagine the role “under 40’s” play in Venango County, and to recognize their unique contributions to regional life. This year, the event will be held at Wanango Country Club in

Reno, and will include a cocktail hour for young and old to share ideas and network, a few words of congratulation and motivation from members of FLEX and the Venango Chamber and a slide show highlighting some of the most affecting and inspirational accomplishments of our community’s most promising young professionals over the past year. Of course, the evening culminates in the presentation of the Young Professional of the Year award, the keystone of the event.

The Young Professional of the Year award is given to the most promising, influential, dedicated and engaged entrepreneur or businessperson in the county under the age of 40. Young professionals are nominated by members of the community, via application (available on the Venango Chamber website, or by contacting the Chamber office at 814 -676-8521). Nominees are then interviewed by FLEX and Chamber members, and applications are reviewed by 6 independent, unbiased chambers of commerce across western PA, who ultimately choose the awardee. It is a difficult task to select a single winner from a pool of such meritorious candidates.

If you know a deserving young professional, submit your nomination by February 17th.

Venango County is fortunate to have such a strong contingency of young professionals, those who have matured here, and those who are new to the county. It is critical we continue to foster their careers and lives, so we encourage you to pay careful attention to those “under 40’s” you encounter each day. Whether in your community, your work and even in your home, help us celebrate our most valuable assets, and ensure the future of our region by supporting the mission of FLEX, and by attending FLEX Presents.

FLEX Presents is open to the public. Reservations can be made on the Venango Chamber website, or by contacting the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce at (814) 676 -8521.



2013 Nominees

Bottom Row from left: Jill Harry, Amanda Callinan, Matt Beith, Darren Paden.

Top Row from left: Trenton Moulin, Bobbie Haag, Josh Botts, Chip Abramovic, Kurtis Bell.



Elizabeth Griebel grew up in Franklin, Pennsylvania. She recently graduated from Venango College of Clarion University with an Associate's Degree in Paralegal and a Bachelor's Degree in Rehabilitative Sciences. Elizabeth is an Insurance Agent with Urban Insurance in Seneca. Her passion is law and helping people. She feels that her career as an Insurance Agent allows her to fulfill that passion. She has been an active member of FLEX serving as the Secretary and currently serves as a board of director on the following boards: I-CAP (Industry Community Advisory Panel) and Venango Area Community Foundation. She is the founder of the Venango County Runners Club and volunteers at Precious Paws Animal Rescue.

Elizabeth is most proud of growing into an outgoing and ambitious individual in her short time at Venango College. She plans to continue growing and as set goals which include attaining a management position, gaining professional designations, and making Venango County even better.

If you could bring one of the 7 Wonders of the World to Venango County, which one?

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

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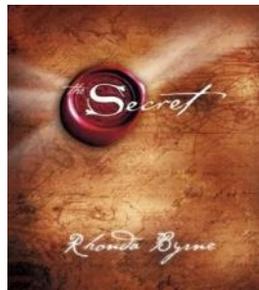
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On the Young Professionals' Bookshelf



The Secret by Rhonda Byrne is a book based on a film by the same name that was released in 2006. Rhonda focuses on the law of attraction and how positive thinking can create life-changing results such as increased wealth, health, and happiness. The law of attraction is posited to work by

attracting into a person's life the experiences, situations, events, and people that match the frequency of the person's thoughts and feelings. *The Secret* has sold over 25 million print copies worldwide and has been translated into over 50 languages. It remained on the New York Times bestseller list for over 200 weeks. This book has helped many people throughout the world discover their inner strength and capabilities. However, critics state that the book does not actually teach you anything because you can create all the positive thinking in the world and not be doing anything with it. Rhonda has recognized this weakness in her book and has since written *The Power* and *The Magic*. However, if you read *The Secret* knowing that you must utilize the teachings of the book in your everyday life, not just on your couch at home, then this can be a powerful tool towards bringing more positives your way.



William (Will) Price grew up in Titusville, Pennsylvania. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Arts and Sciences from Venango College of Clarion University. Will is the Executive Assistant at the United Way of Venango County which he is most proud of the impact he has on lives. He serves as the FLEX Treasurer and active in assisting in 4H. He plans to obtain his Master's Degree in non-profit and business management as he plans to grow the United Way.

What do you miss most about Venango County when you are away?

Will would miss the smell of the fresh country and the friendliness of familiar people when walking down the street.

Young Professionals in the Workplace Series

Many people look at creating a personalized resume as a daunting task that requires a lot of work with little return. We understand that you know better than that! *Follow these 5 basic steps and you will have a professional resume that can be easily modified.*

Step 1: Contact Information. You will want to include name, address, phone number, email, and a link to your online professional network, if applicable. **Step 2:** List your education, work experience, and accomplishments/volunteer activities under separate headers. Depending on the reason for your resume, these items may be rearranged with the most relevant category first and least relevant listed last. This section is most important and you should put some thought into it. You will want to list any internships, summer jobs, awards, honors, certificates, etc. that you may have had. **Step 3:** This section should include any licensing, certifications, appointments, etc. that you have obtained and, if applicable, when they expire. **Step 4:** Add your professional references on a separate page. You should have between 3-5 people as references and include their name, title, and contact information. These should be people that know you well and can testify to your character, but try to avoid using friends. **Step 5:** (perhaps the most important step!): Have someone proofread your resume for errors. For additional assistance, your local *Pennsylvania Careerlink®* also provides assistance with creating and maintaining your resume.

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For your information, there is so much to do in Venango County!

A regular feature of FYI will be announcements pertaining to opportunities for employment, volunteering and activities well suited for the young professionals, but not necessarily exclusive to any age group. Chamber members are invited to submit notices to be included in future editions of FYI. We request that items be brief but informational (as opposed to advertising), and include contact information for follow up.

Volunteer:

The United Way of Venango County is seeking volunteers for the United Way Reading Buddies Events. The event will teach mentors how to encourage families to read together. Interested parties can visit United Way on the web at www.unitedwayofvenangocounty.org or by contacting Will Price at (814) 676 6545.

Social/Recreational:

FLEX will be putting together a team for Bowl for Kids Sake. The event is April 5th at Seneca Lanes at 3:00 p.m. Those interested in being the FLEX Bowl for Kids Sake team should contact Bobbie Haag at bhaag@venangocareerlink.org for a sponsorship form and additional information.

Workforce:

The Pennsylvania CareerLink®- Oil Region is gearing up for the 2014 Annual Career Fair at the Cranberry Mall on April 9th. The Career Fair is an event that gives the opportunity for job-seekers to connect with employers under one roof. Job-seekers should take the initiative to polish resumes, practice interviewing, and brush up on soft skills. Learn how to ace your next job interview online at www.jobgateway.pa.gov. You will be able to participate in virtual mock interviews, interview answer builder, and other detailed training modules at your own pace.



FLEX members provided a two-day training program to upcoming leaders at Venango College to help give them a competitive edge. A special thank you to Phi Theta Kappa honor society for creating this event! — at [Venango College of Clarion University](http://www.venangocollege.edu). See this month's Business Connector for more photos.

OUR 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.

Where you'll find FLEX in February:

First Friday Lunch - February 7 @ noon, El Toro

Monthly Meeting - February 12th @ 5:30 O.m., Venango Chamber Conference Room

Chamber events - Check out the Business Connector Calendar of Events or www.venangochamber.org



VenangoFLEX

Text FLEX to 42828 to be added to our email list

email: flex@venangochamber.org