

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

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

FLEX Members Get Involved!

FLEX members will be joining forces in the battle against Cancer, participating as a team in the Relay for Life of Venango County.

The relay will start at 10:00 am on May 31st and end at 10:00 am on June 1st at the Oil City High School track. Teams are required to have someone on the track at all times.

Activities leading up to the event will include **Cornhole for a Cause** tournament on Saturday, May 3rd.

If you are interested in participating in the relay team, the cornhole tournament or you would like to sponsor the young professionals, contact Bobbie Haag at 814-516-1383 or the Chamber at 814-676-8521.



Cornhole for a Cause

May 3, 2014 Registration at 12:30 p.m.
Taylor's Pub
701 Grant Street, Franklin PA

How to Register:
Pre-Registration Encouraged \$10 Per Player
Contact Bobbie Haag at bhaag@venangocareerlink.org
(814) 516-1383 or the Chamber at (814) 676-8521
Or Register at the Event \$15 Per Player

Spectators Welcome!

PLAY & DONATE!
Sign up in teams of two (2)
Cash Prizes & More!

FLEX
future leaders and entrepreneurs exchange



FLEX members recently participated in Bowl for Kids Sake, raising \$325 for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Venango County .



Jason and Justin Bidish are "Man Enough" to Walk a Mile in Her Shoes®: The International Men's March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault & Gender Violence.



Although he is not a native of Venango County, Kurtis Bell has woven himself in to the fabric of the region. Through his career at ServiceMaster by Bell he has been able to help many in Venango County whether it be via a spring cleaning, or recovering and rebuilding after a major disaster in their home or business.

Kurtis has always had an interest in business which may be traced back to riding around with his father in the early days of ServiceMaster by Bell. Although he went to college to pursue a career in music education and performance, his career path came full circle after college when he joined the team at ServiceMaster by Bell. He notes that although music and cleaning seem to be polar opposites, he applies many lessons learned from college everyday in his career.

If you are thinking Kurtis's name is a familiar one, you may have remembered him as being a nominee for 2013's Young Professional of the year. He truly appreciates the recognition and is ecstatic to be making a difference as a young professional in the region. He also authors a networking column for the Venango Chamber of Commerce's Business Connector.

Bell calls Clarion, PA home and loves his hometown saying: " There's nothing better than shooting some clays or spending an evening around a fire with your closest friends." When he's not at work you can typically find him at the Clarion YMCA training for his next olympic weightlifting competition. If your search turns up empty there, try the dek hockey rink at Hasson Heights, or a camp fire deep in the woods around Clarion.

When asked about his Pittsburghese, he says: "I don't really say 'yinz' much, but I have no problem headin dahn nair to the Strip for a Primanti's Sandwich n'at."

Ready, Set, Interview!

You've got that initial interview, you are dressed for success, now what? First and foremost, find someone to practice common interview questions with. Whether it is a close friend that you feel comfortable with or a trained professional at the Careerlink®, it is important to prepare yourself for the types of questions that may be asked at a job interview.

Forbes has a list of the 50 most common interview questions [here](http://www.forbes.com/sites/jacquelynsmith/2013/01/11/how-to-ace-the-50-most-common-interview-questions/)¹.

Take the time to mentally prepare yourself. It is completely normal and expected that you will be nervous. Take a few deep breaths and give yourself a pep talk beforehand though, so that you are controlling the interview, not your nerves.

Write down and practice talking about both your strengths and your weaknesses before your interview. You should always be prepared to answer questions about your weaknesses or gaps in your resume, but focus on your strengths, accomplishments, and skills during the interview. If you keep an emphasis on the positives, you are more likely to succeed.

¹ <http://www.forbes.com/sites/jacquelynsmith/2013/01/11/how-to-ace-the-50-most-common-interview-questions/>



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Ashley Stroup-McCauley may be a familiar face to many of you. She calls Venango County home, and has probably assisted you in her prior positions at the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce. She has since moved on, taking a position with Northwest Savings Bank in Oil City as the Assistant Branch Manager where she serves as a loan officer.

Outside of her career at Northwest Savings bank, Ashley is also active in the Oil City Main Street Design Committee; the Clarion University Alumni Association Board of Directors; and of course, FLEX. If she can't be found at an event for one of these organizations there's a good chance you'll find her out running the bike trail or bridges with her 9 month old Goldendoodle puppy, Murphy.

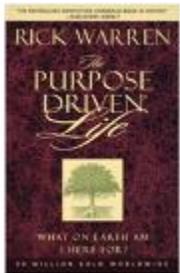
Ashley has a background in communications and marketing as well as business administration from Edinboro and Clarion, respectively. Adding to her education she also hails as a graduate of the inaugural Venango Vision Leadership Institute.

Looking to the future, Ashley is excited to be a part of the positive changes that are happening in the community. She says, "I'm impressed with what the Main Street group has already accomplished for downtown Oil City, and I'm looking forward to seeing some big changes in the future."

Ashley also hopes that FLEX demonstrates to our area youth that you can succeed in Venango County by having the right values, being a reliable employee, and having a drive to better yourself for your future. She drops a pearl of advice in saying, "Young people can do this (succeed) in any town, big or small, desolate or thriving; as long as you work hard on seeking out the right opportunities. They exist, but they won't find you—you have to find them!"

When asked about her love for her hometown Ashley remarked "I think it's obvious you love your hometown when you get excited to see the Barkeyville/Franklin-Oil City sign on I-80."

On our Book Shelf



Published in 1997, **The Purpose Driven Life** quickly became the best-selling hardback non-fiction book in history and the second most-translated book in the world, after the Bible. The Purpose Driven Life has changed tens of millions of lives and was updated in

2007 with new chapters and insights, keeping this book current with the changing world. Take a spiritual journey with author Rick Warren that can help you to answer life's most important question: What On Earth Am I Here For? This book will take you on a 40-day personal spiritual journey, and presents what Warren says are God's five purposes for human life on Earth.

Continued from page 2

Lastly, to keep your name and face on the interviewer's mind above others send a thank you card or letter, connect on LinkedIn, and ask about their hiring process so you know when to call and follow-up after your interview.

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"The Future of Venango Area Business!"

Schools Out for the Summer! Welcome Back Interns

In the next few weeks we'll begin to see college students returning home and in some cases coming to our region even if it is not their home, to hold Summer positions. School will be out and the forward thinking of them will not just be looking for work, but will be seeking experience. This is a real win-win for the student and for businesses.

A quick google search of "interns make great employees" will yield you just a few of the great reasons to consider hiring interns, seasonally or in preparation for future full time employment.

So what if you are the intern? Can you turn your internship into a full time job? A recent article in Forbes magazine suggests the following:

Choose the right internship.

Seek out internships that require substantial work.

Act the part.

Adhere strictly to the company's dress code and office hours. Treat everyone you meet with respect and professionalism, and don't badmouth any co-workers.

Network.

Once the internship begins, don't be shy about engaging with your full-time colleagues.

Ask questions.

Don't be shy about asking questions, especially if you need clarification on an assignment.

Set goals for yourself.

Within the first week of your internship, make an appointment with your manager to establish goals.

Be assertive.

Learn as much as possible by staying busy with projects and volunteering for assignments.

Attend all intern activities.

Most employers host events for interns, with or without the rest of the company.

Keep in touch after the summer.

Before the summer ends, get your colleagues' contact information so you can send them thank-you notes.

You can read the complete article online at this link:

www.forbes.com/sites/jacquelynsmith/2013/05/20/turn-your-internship-into-a-full-time-job/

PA CareerLink currently list several intern opportunities in the Oil Region. Visit the Job Gateway at www.cwds.pa.gov to see what's currently available.

Join FLEX for our Welcome Interns mixer, Friday June 13th at the National Transit Building Annex.

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 March:

First Friday Lunch - May 2nd at noon, Wanango Golf Club Grill

Monthly Meeting - May 21st @ 5:30 pm, 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