

# FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

## FYI

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

### Trenton Moulin named 2015 Young Professional of the Year



The Young Professionals of the Venango Area Chamber held the Fifth Annual “FLEX Presents” on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at the Oil City Library with more than 100 people in attendance. “FLEX Presents” is an annual event that celebrates the achievements of local young professionals who contribute to their community through civic engagement.

There were 12 nominees for 2015 Young Professional of the Year. Nominations were submitted from throughout Venango County. Trenton has been Executive Director of Bridge Builders Community Foundations (serving philanthropy Venango, Forest, Clarion and Jefferson Counties) since August 2011 and the Oil City Civic Center (preserving the historic National Transit Building and providing affordable space to nonprofits) since August 2010. With 10 years of nonprofit administration experience, Trenton is dedicated to helping organizations and individuals reach their potential. Trenton is passionate about the area that he lives in and making our area a better place to live, learn, work and play. Trenton serves on the Oil City Salvation Advisory Board, the Venango College of Clarion University Advisory Board, UPMC Corporation Board, and serves on the Oil City Main Street Programs Steering Committee. He was also involved in the creation of the Hasson Park Disc Golf Course and the Town Square Park in downtown Oil City. In the past Trenton has volunteered as a Red Cross CPR and First Aid instructor, a Junior Achievement volunteer Instructor, a mentor for Restorative Justice Court Diversion Program and a volunteer for the Venango County Fatherhood Initiative’s Soapbox derby. Trenton is currently taking classes for his MBA and received his Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Pittsburgh.

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View more photos of FLEX Presents at  
[www.facebook.com/LearningCenterandPhotography](http://www.facebook.com/LearningCenterandPhotography)

*“Building a Future for Venango Area Business!”*

## Here's How Your Goals Are Holding You Back From Success

JON NASTOR CONTRIBUTOR/ Host of the podcast Hack the Entrepreneur

As entrepreneurs, we have a tendency to set goals, accomplish them and immediately set five bigger goals in their place. How many times have we caught ourselves setting new goals even before we've reached the existing ones? We project our success into the future and wait for the next big win. We dream that our next project might win us the [entrepreneurial lottery](#) and be an overnight success.

### The entrepreneurial gap

Thinking big is what makes us entrepreneurs. But it's also what makes us, at times, unhappy and relentlessly striving for more, more, more. We do this without ever taking the time to stop, turn around and see what we've accomplished to get to where we are.

This, the space between today's goals and the horizon, is the [entrepreneurial gap](#).

### What causes the gap?

When our next product launches, everything will be great. As soon as we get seven figures in sales, we'll take that vacation. The moment we hit 250,000 downloads of our new [podcast](#), the sponsors will be banging down our doors.

We set goals one week, six months, five years into the future. Our ambitions are always moving forward. Our projections are up and to the right. We're always walking toward the horizon, looking forward and refusing to turn around to notice the way we've come.

### How can we close the gap?

It's essential to the well-being of our businesses -- and our lives -- that we strive to close this gap.

If we're constantly walking toward the horizon and never turning around to recognize each of our goals as we achieve them, we'll never see our own successes. And we'll never close the gap.

Much has been said about living in the present and enjoying today for today, because this is where satisfaction and happiness tend to be. We need to start doing this in our businesses, or we'll end up on a never-ending journey that will ultimately lead to unhappiness and failing businesses.

Yes, we still need to set goals and continue to grow, but remember that where you are today is worth celebrating.

What we've accomplished to get here wasn't easy. Sure, it's not where we'll be in six months or a year from today, but it's where we are at this moment.

Make where you are today where you want to be.

This is important because no matter how hard we focus on the future, our thoughts will never be enough to take us there. Tomorrow needs goals, and yesterday needs to be celebrated.

Today needs our attention.

Source: <http://www.entrepreneur.com/article/244512>



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## Herding Cats in a Family Business

by Kurtis Bell *Kurtis and his father Randy are co-owners of ServiceMaster by Bell.*

For years, I've said that my father and I could have a reality show based on our interactions at work. We have days that are great, fun filled days that you might think a father and son team would have at work. There are also days where from the moment we are both walk in to the office, we are at each other's throats. For a while I thought these ups and downs were only happening to my father and I, as I know a handful of others that are in family businesses and it always seems to be going well for them. After talking with a close friend of mine who is in a family business, I found out that my story echoes his own.

This really opened my eyes and as I began to talk with more young professionals that are part of a multi-generational family business, the story continued to repeat itself. It did not seem to matter if they were local business owners or business owners from across the county, everyone I talked to in a multi-generational business had really good good times and really bad bad times with their business partners.

For some, the hard part of this can be keeping work at work. Fortunately for me, I am very good at not letting a bad day at work with my father spill over in to life outside the office doors. I'm not saying to forget work as soon as you leave the office, as all of us in small businesses know that you are never truly off the clock. I am saying though that it is very important not to be at grandma's birthday party and start bickering with a family member that is in the business over what may have went wrong that day at the office.

Another issue in family businesses is communication outside of traditional family roles. Although I am young and do have a lot to learn, I am still very knowledgeable in very specific areas of the restoration and cleaning industry. There are instances where my father, who I am partnered with in business, talks to me from more of a family role than his business role. This is a common struggle amongst family businesses that can really turn a discussion to an argument in a hurry.

So, hopefully this has reassured all of you involved with multi-generational family businesses that you are not the only one who struggles with the desire to walk out the door and burn the place to the ground on a weekly basis. In my experience, cooler heads have prevailed. I always wait for both my father and I to cool down then suggest we talk to each other as people, and not a father son business team that just had an argument. Despite all the bickering that comes with a family business, there is no place I would rather be.



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## Child Development Centers Enlisting Volunteer Mentors



Child Development Centers, Inc. (CDC) is recruiting volunteers and mentors to lend a hand with the child care and early childhood education that it provides for families in local communities.

Volunteers and mentors are needed to help build “positive relationships with children that lay a foundation for them to grow and learn,” said Luke Braughler, CDC’s director of employee and family care, who oversees the organization’s

volunteer and mentor activities. “Children are more likely to prosper when they enjoy healthy relationships with caring, nurturing adults or teenagers.”

Volunteers will work primarily with infants, toddlers and preschool children, doing anything from rocking infants to assisting preschoolers with classroom projects. Mentors will assist with elementary school-age students who attend CDC after school, including helping with homework, serving as role models, and building healthy relationships.

To become a CDC volunteer or mentor, an individual must obtain child abuse and criminal history clearances, and complete the organization’s volunteer and mentor training. CDC will cover the cost of the clearances, which take about 30 days to secure.

Individuals can join CDC’s volunteer or mentor corps or learn more by contacting Braughler at CDC, 814-437-7288 or [lbraughler@cdcenters.org](mailto:lbraughler@cdcenters.org).

## May events at Quality Inn and Banquet Center

Heather Covell, Events Coordinator shares that the Quality Inn Event and Banquet Center has planned an exciting month in May. Several events are planned, including the after party/karaoke with Sean Whalen for the ComicCon on May 8th, Mother's Day Brunch on May 10, Spring Craft Show May 16, and the Grand Opening of the Patio and launch of Bike Night on May 30.

### 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 this month:

FLEX **First** Friday Lunch - Next scheduled lunch will be held in June

Monthly FLEX Meeting - May 8 @ 5:30 pm, Venango Chamber Conf. Room

Chamber events - Check out the Chamber’s Calendar of Events at [www.venangochamber.org](http://www.venangochamber.org)



VenangoFLEX

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