

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

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Student Appreciation Luncheon Held

By SALLY BELL Derrick staff writer



Young professionals want the area's interns to know that they have a network in Venango County.

Those two groups of young people met Thursday at a luncheon at the Barrow-Civic Theatre in Franklin. The Future Leaders & Entrepreneurs Exchange (FLEX) of the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the event.

The intent of the get-together - which drew about 20 interns, most of them from Joy Global in Franklin - was twofold. The chamber wants the interns to know they are appreciated and wants to offer incentive for them to return to the area, said Susan Williams, Executive Director at the Venango Chamber. "Today is our invitation to be a part of our network," Williams

said in an interview before the luncheon.

Student interns - some paid, some unpaid - spent their summers working in businesses throughout the region such as nonprofit organizations, mining, transportation, engineering and banks, Williams said.

"Joy Global has eight interns currently working at its Franklin location," said Alan McBride of Joy Global's human resources department. "The interns work in various engineering departments including electrical, mechanical, testing, controls, automation and haulage, or the removal of coal from a site. The company encourages its interns to network" McBride said.

McBride, 26, went to Penn State but returned to the area and has worked with the mining equipment and services company for four years. As a young professional himself, McBride said three factors ensure community staying power for a young person - getting involved in the community, loving what you do and continued learning and education.

Young people in small towns and elsewhere are often subject to the notion they have to leave to succeed.

"I've heard parents tell kids, 'Don't come back to this area,'" Williams said.

"Everything you find in a big city is here, just in a different image," said Will Price, 28, the President of FLEX.

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Michael J. Reinsel may seem like a familiar name to many, as he is the Owner and Funeral Director at Reinsel Funeral Home and Crematory in Oil City.

Originally being from Oil City, Michael saw the opportunity to join the family business, which allowed him to stay in the area as well as help people through difficult times. He hasn't always lived in this area, though, in which he spent some time studying in different parts of the state. After graduating from Oil City High School in 1995, he attended Edinboro University and received a degree in Business Administration in 1999, and then continued on to the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, where he graduated in 2000 with a degree in Funeral Arts/Sciences. After his schooling, Michael served an apprenticeship for one year with his father.

Michael has worked at Reinsel Funeral Home and Crematory ever since, where he continues to help this family owned and operated funeral business grow. He recently started offering memorial videos, making them the first funeral home in the area to offer a website where families can view and share both pictures and memories and offer condolences.

When not working, Michael enjoys spending time with his two sons—Carson and Rylan. He also likes to go outdoors, where you may find him downhill skiing or taking a kayak trip down the Allegheny River.

Michael told us, "I just want to be a good dad and husband and run my business with dignity, respect and compassion." His father and grandfather were both great role models for him, and he plans to continue expressing their values of treating people as he would also like to be treated.

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You will surely notice that this month's newsletter is missing a regular feature. Kurtis Bell, co-owner of ServiceMaster by Bell, writes our monthly networking articles. Earlier this week, Kurtis had a swimming accident while vacationing in Ocean City, Maryland and sustained severe neck and back injuries. After a long and involved surgery on Tuesday, reports are that he is doing well and with much time and work, can be optimistic about his recovery.

Please keep Kurtis and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Those who know him well will appreciate the spirit and humor that he is exhibiting during this tough time. We fully expect that Kurtis will turn this into an opportunity and we will see some interesting networking articles in the future!



Andrew (Drew) T. Reinsel, originally from Oil City, is also part of the 5th generation at Reinsel Funeral Home and Crematory, where he serves as Funeral Director.

Drew never expected to be involved in the funeral home business—he planned on becoming a teacher. While he was going to school at Slippery Rock University studying education, he changed his major half way through when he realized a position in the family business would be available. After graduating Slippery Rock in 2011 with a degree in Business Management, Drew then continued on to the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science, where he graduated with a degree in Funeral Arts/Sciences in 2013.

When away from his job, you can find Drew participating in many different activities outdoors. Sports are his biggest interest, in which he plays softball during the summer, flag football in the fall, and is a PIAA referee for basketball and football seasons. Drew has even been on teams where he received both the men's softball and flag football champion title. If he's not currently involved with sports, he likes to go on walks with his fiancé and dog, as well as spend time kayaking, canoeing, swimming and camping.

Drew will be getting married this October, and has plans to start a family. He grew up as the youngest of five boys, so he has always looked up to his brothers, as well as his parents and teachers who have all pointed him in the right direction throughout life. "I just want to be dependable to my family, respected in the community, give back to local sports clubs/children, and grow as a person," he said.

Murder Mystery Dinner/Train

September 12,19 & 26, 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
409 S Perry St, Titusville, PA 16354

Medvale High School Mayhem – "Class of 1985 30th Reunion" Someone's got a secret from 1985 that could play havoc with their current life and will totally kill to keep it from coming out! Dinner starts at 5 pm at Perry Street Station. Reservations required. **Event Cost:** \$65

For more information about this event, please contact: Oil Creek & Titusville Railroad,
ocandt@usachoice.net
814-676-1733, www.octr.org



Interested in volunteering with us? The Cranberry Festival is coming up and we could use your help! The festival is on September 19th from 10AM - 7PM.

Contact the Chamber of Commerce at 676-8521 or chamber@venangochamber.org for details.



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Laura Ordaz, 22, of Dempseytown, is finishing up her fourth internship at Joy Global. Ordaz graduated from Slippery Rock with a degree in physics and plans to pursue a master's degree in mechanical engineering at West Virginia University. Upon completion of her degree, there are enough engineering jobs in the area that she could still get what she wants out of a career, Ordaz said. "I like the area. There's no need to leave home," she said.

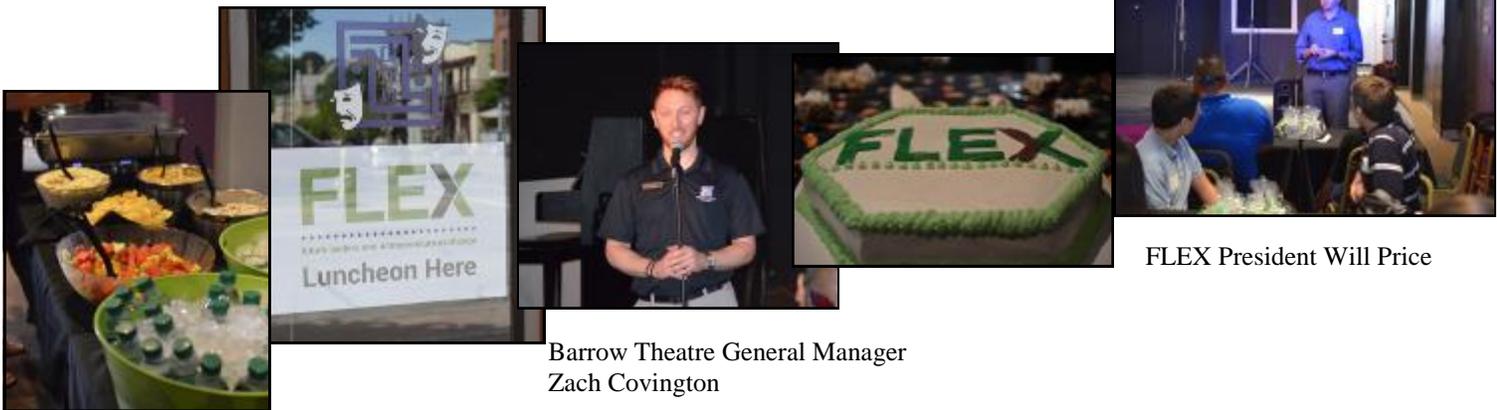
In remarks at the luncheon, FLEX members offered some sage advice. "I spent some time out of the area but I always end up gravitating back here," said Elizabeth Griebel, the FLEX secretary. Griebel said she is pleased to know it is possible to "find good opportunities and make a living wage" in this area. "The beautiful natural landscapes and towns of the region offer a variety of things to do," she added.

Matt Caldwell, a partner at Caldwell Printing in Oil City and a past president of FLEX, recommended that interns seek careers they are passionate about. The building of a network is important, but "don't be a resume builder." Get to know your local chamber of commerce, Caldwell said.

Kurtis Bell, co-owner of ServiceMaster by Bell at Clarion, agreed in his remarks that "networking is key." "Get to know people not just as a face and a name on a business card," said Bell, who added that it is better to have a "smaller, tighter network" you can trust rather than a stack of business cards with contacts that will never be looked at.

In her remarks, Williams addressed the interns and said that after they finish their schooling, "maybe, just maybe, you'll consider a future in Venango County. "When we take care of our young people it pays dividends to our community," Williams said.

Thank you to all who attended and helped at our 2015 FLEX Student Appreciation Luncheon!



FLEX President Will Price

Barrow Theatre General Manager Zach Covington

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 Lunch Wednesday September 2 at the Venango Chamber

Chamber events - Check out the Chamber's Calendar of Events at www.venangochamber.org

Text FLEX to 42828 to be added to our email list

email: flex@venangochamber.org



VenangoFLEX