

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

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

FLEX... What it's all about?

FLEX Schedules Annual Meeting

The Future Leaders and Entrepreneurs Exchange, Venango County's young professionals, will hold its second ever annual meeting on October 15th at Venango College - Clarion University, Rhoades Hall, from 5:30 - 7:30 pm. The evening will begin with networking and refreshments. Included in the evening will be a brief review of the bylaws, seating of the 2015 officers and a presentation by Pam Watkins, HR Manager of Kraus Flooring.



Last year's speaker was David Gibbons, President of UPMC Hamot and Northwest. David talked to the young professionals about his experience as a young professional and the importance of a well thought out plan for success. His presentation was followed by several questions from the audience.

Those who are interested in receiving email reminders can call the Chamber at 814 - 676-8521, email flex@venangochamber.org or text FLEX to 42828.



Legislative Forum Invites Young Professionals

The Venango and Franklin Chambers will host a Legislative Forum on Friday, October 31st, beginning with breakfast at 7:30 am. Rich Jackson, Editor of The Derrick and Leigh Protivnak, FLEX Young Professional of the Year and owner of Neverending Stories, will serve as moderators. The cost to attend is \$12.



Dan Flaherty is the newly appointed Director of the Oil City Library as well as the Oil Creek Library District Administrator. He garners a great appreciation for the library system as well as what libraries stand for; the opportunity for anyone to explore, discover, connect, create, and learn. Dan takes a particular shine to public libraries as he is intrigued by the diversity of the patrons and services as well as the opportunity to have a direct impact on the community.

After leaving the area briefly to pursue higher education (BA History and MLS from Clarion University), Dan returned to Venango County. He credits fond memories, family ties, and his appreciation for the regions beauty as some of his reasons for returning.

When not at the library, you may be able to find Dan outdoors canoeing, hiking with his wife and their dog Keasbey, working on his disc golf game, or reading.

When asked about his plans for the future, Dan first sites family goals: having a family and celebrating a 50th wedding anniversary top his list. He would also like to continually evolve the library and provide the community with an innovative, fun, and quality resource. Flaherty also aspires to expand and enhance his sense of the outdoors, exploring what the area has to offer. He hopes to achieve all of this while searching for the illusive ace (hole in one) in disc golf.

3 Reasons Why Every Young Professional Should Serve on a Nonprofit Board

According to Board Source less than 2% of nonprofit board members are under 30 years old. In contrast, 57% of nonprofit board members are 50 and over.

Blogger Nikita T Michell shares **three reasons why she believes every young professional should serve on a nonprofit board:**

1. Develop skills that you may not have the opportunity to develop at your job.

When you join a nonprofit board, it's likely that you were selected because you have a background or skill set that is needed. That, however, doesn't always mean that you'll be forced to engage in activities that you find yourself doing at your day job. You will have the opportunity to select the committees and activities that you want to dedicate your time to, allowing you to develop new skills and utilize other talents you have.

2. Build your professional network.

Being on a nonprofit board allows you to interact with individuals who likely aren't in your current professional network. Assuming the board you choose to serve on has a diverse array of professional backgrounds, you will have the opportunity to meet new people (both the members of the board and their network as you interact with them at events). By expanding your network in this way, you'll discover that you have access to mentors and professional opportunities you otherwise wouldn't.



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Alan McBride, Human Resource Generalist for Joy Global, is an area young professional that is proud to call Venango County his home. McBride, a graduate of Venango Catholic High School, moved away to pursue higher education at the Pennsylvania State University. It was there he realized he possessed a passion for working behind the scenes for the university's television station, a local minor league baseball team, and the school's athletic department. Alan was able to take this passion and apply it behind the scenes at his current position with Joy Global. He sites several similarities between his life in production and in human resources. Both fields require one to be honest and decisive; rely on collaboration with other units to enhance the end product; and one must distance themselves from any comfort zones.

Outside of the workplace Alan enjoys spending time on the golf course, taking in the fine arts via concerts and performances (notably the Firefly Music Festival), keeping up with PSU's football team, and cheering on his favorite Pittsburgh sports teams. He, like so many others, also appreciated the regions beauty and what it has to offer by spending time in the great outdoors kayaking and running.

Looking to the future, Alan is attaining his Master's Degree in Business Administration from Gannon University as well as progressing professionally in to Human Resource Management.

Continued from previous page

3. Develop a deeper understanding of what it takes to run a successful organization.

Serving on a board allows you to experience, first-hand, the operations of an organization at a high-level. Whether or not you strive to be a leader of a nonprofit organization, learning about and making decisions on governance, financial/accounting, ethics and legal issues is not something that most of us have the responsibility of doing – or opportunity to do – at our places of employment. It's an experience that will truly develop your leadership skills and provide you with exposure that you wouldn't otherwise gain at this stage in your career.

The above reasons are only three of many why you should be serving on a nonprofit board. **What's most important is that you begin to understand that not only is it possible for young professionals to join a board, it is imperative that we start getting a seat at the table.** It's the only way we will increase the representation of board members under 30 from an abysmal 2%.

Read Nikita's complete blogpost at <http://nikitatmitchell.com/2011/05/3-reasons-why-every-young-professional-should-serve-on-a-nonprofit-board/>



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"The Future of Venango Area Business!"

FLEX Leadership Training with Venango College student leaders

Members of FLEX will once again be partnering with the Phi Theta Kappa honor society at Venango College of Clarion University to help give the student leaders a competitive edge. Last semester's attendees had nothing but positive reviews of the learning experience from their local peers. Based on this positive feedback, we will be sticking close to the same curriculum where we reviewed goal making, leadership qualities, internships, networking skills, accountability, and volunteerism.



FLEX members facilitating this class developed the content based on their own experiences and proven methods for developing young leaders. Students will play an active role in this training, through interactive exercises and continuous feedback. While facilitating the discussion on leadership qualities at last semester's training, the students were asked to describe the characteristics of a good leader with a FLEX member exploring further into the characteristics that were given. The discussion on internships developed around each volunteer FLEX member describing their internship experience and what it meant to them or what it could have meant for them if they had one, with the students developing their own questions and strategies from these experiences. We develop an agenda and planned material but thanks to each and every one of us having varying experiences, our agenda is subject to change based on the class needs.



FLEX members will be at the Venango College on October 20th and 27th from 6:30 to 7:30pm and are looking for other young professionals who would love to mentor the next group of professionals through this training experience.

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 October:

FLEX **Second** Friday Lunch October 10 at Whimzys

Monthly (Annual) Meeting - October 15th @ 5:30 pm, Venango College - Rhoades

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



VenangoFLEX

Text FLEX to 42828 to be added to our email list

email: flex@venangochamber.org