

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

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FLEX Shows Appreciation to Students Working in Venango Area

“I will always call Venango County my home” and “There are so many opportunities for young people in our area” — a couple of the many positive comments heard at this year’s Student Appreciation Luncheon, held on July 29 at the Day’s Inn and Conference Center in Oil City.



Each summer, local businesses and organizations employ college students from schools throughout the region and further. This relationship benefits our community in countless ways, in which employers reap the benefit of the best and brightest students, who bring energy, creativity, and emerging technical skills. This is a great opportunity for the community to engage and invite a future workforce.

FLEX hosts the Student Appreciation Luncheon at the end of each summer to show the young people working in our area how much we appreciate them being here!

Many interns joined FLEX at the luncheon, representing the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce, Joy Global, UPMC Northwest, the Barrow Civic Theatre, the Derrick Publishing Company, and a technology company out of California, employing a local student through an online internship. Young professionals working in the area were also invited, in which many gave testimonials covering their journeys and why the Venango Area is a great place to live, work, and play.

“Though I was not born and raised in Venango County, my experience living here has positively shaped me, professionally and personally. I’m constantly involved in meaningful projects that enrich my life and support the community,” said Casey McVay, admissions recruiter at Clarion University’s Venango College and FLEX president. “I have an affordable home, an excellent job, plenty of leisure activities and people to meet, and an abundance of things to be thankful for. Its great FLEX brings young professionals together to share these reflections. It proves it really is wonderful to be here.”

Thank you to all who joined us at the luncheon and to all the young professionals who continue to make our area so great!



Looking for a way to relax? Go visit Jessica Young, a licensed massage therapist at the Oil City YWCA!

Jessica moved to Oil City from Columbus, Ohio, shortly after she was born and graduated from Oil City Senior High School in 2006. She went on to college at Clarion University's Venango College where she received her certificate for Massage Therapy. Following graduation, Jessica gained experience working as a massage therapist at local businesses before opening her own practice in 2010 at the Oil City YWCA.

When asked about her achievements, Jessica told us "I am proud of the person I have become. I have my family and life experiences to thank for that." She is also very satisfied with her growing massage therapy business and is truly thankful for her wonderful clients.

Jessica enjoys exercising in her free time, in which her favorite forms are running, biking, swimming, strength training, and participating in triathlons each summer with her sister. She also enjoys having lunch at Spilling the Beans and taking trips to Pittsburgh.

For the future, Jessica hopes to continue to enjoy life each day by spending time with the people she loves and providing her clients with the kind of service they deserve. She also hopes to travel and explore new places!

Jessica told us the thing she loves most about working in Venango County is the people she has met along the way and we couldn't agree more! We're so glad that she's one of the great young professionals in our area!

2017 Oil Heritage Festival Bike 'n Brew

FLEX had a meeting in August to debrief the Oil Heritage Festival Bike 'n Brew! We discussed what went great and what could be adjusted for the next event to make it even better. We're already starting to plan the 2017 Bike 'n Brew and we're very excited! Stay tuned during the next few months for updates.

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We are amazed at some of the great things young professionals in our area are doing, one of those being Deanna Wolfgong, MT-BC., owner and music therapist at DS Music Therapy in Franklin.

Deanna was born in Spain and traveled around the world as a daughter of a member of the Navy and eventually settled in Sugarcreek, where she graduated from Rocky Grove High School in 2003. She attended college at Slippery Rock University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Music and a certification in Music Therapy, and is currently obtaining her master's degree in Music Therapy.

Along with working at her private practice, Deanna works as a teacher's aide at Rocky Grove High School. She would love to cut back and work only one job within the next few years to focus on growing her business. She would like to start accepting insurance to help take some of the cost off families, rent or build a space of her own, and hire employees.

Besides taking a leap and opening her own business, a big achievement of Deanna's is participating in Franklin's Taste of Talent, in which she has participated three times.

In her free time, Deanna enjoys to relax by spending time with her niece, taking her dogs on walks, going to the local coffee shop, and meeting up with friends. She is also, as you may have guessed, very musical and enjoys singing; playing piano, guitar, and ukulele; finding new instruments to play; and visiting the Barrow Civic Theatre. Deanna also appreciates the bike trails and scenic beauty in the area as well as the many festivals events held throughout the year.

"I have been told many times that I need to move if I want to be successful in my business," she said. "I refuse. There is a need here in Venango County for the services I provide and I do not want to forget those children and families. Venango County is a beautiful place with beautiful people."

SAVE THE DATE!

FLEX Annual Meeting
Friday, October 21, 5:30 - 7:30pm
Barrow Civic Little Theatre

The evening will include a business meeting, guest speaker, new officer elections, and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Attendees will receive free admission and a drink voucher for the Barrow's Cabaret at 8 p.m.

Are you interested in a FLEX leadership position? If you are new or unsure, mentorship opportunities are available to better introduce you to FLEX involvement. Attend our September meeting to learn more! (see next page)

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Upcoming Events & Volunteer Opportunities

Cranberry Festival

Saturday, September 17, 10AM - 7PM, Morrison Park



Get involved with the community and volunteer with FLEX! The Cranberry Festival is coming up and we could use your help with children's activities, Backwoods Olympics, button selling, and more. You can sign up for a shift, or stay the whole day. Please contact the Chamber of Commerce at 676-8521 or chamber@venangochamber.org if interested.

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, 12 - 1PM, Venango Area Chamber



We'll be discussing ideas for new events, planning for the FLEX Annual Meeting, leadership opportunities, and more. If interested in a leadership position for 2017, please join us!

Is there a day and time that works better for you for meetings? Please let us know by taking our survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/FLEXMeetings.

Coffee Chat

Thursday, September 29, 8AM - 5PM, Karma Coffee Co.

Join FLEX for an informal social to drink good coffee, meet other young professionals, and have a great start to your day!



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:

Saturday, September 17 - Cranberry Festival, 10AM to 7PM, Morrison Park

Wednesday, September 21 - Monthly Meeting, noon to 1PM, Venango Chamber

Thursday, September 29 - Coffee Chat, 8 to 9AM, Karma Coffee

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

email: flex@venangochamber.org



VenangoFLEX