

FLEX FLEX Your Ideas

FYI

brought to you by the future leaders & entrepreneurs exchange

STUDENT *Appreciation Luncheon*

Friday, August 4, 12 - 1:30 PM

Komatsu Mining Corp. Administration Building
120 Liberty Street, Franklin

The Student Appreciation Luncheon is our chance to show our appreciation for the choice students have made to spend their summer in our community!

Not only do students gain experience and skills through summer jobs and internships, but this relationship benefits our community in countless ways. Employers reap the benefit of the best and brightest students, who bring energy and creativity along with emerging technical skills to their workplace, and the community has the opportunity to engage and invite a future workforce.



We invite students to join us for lunch and a brief program to show our appreciation before they go back to their fall classes. Any college student working in the Venango Area for the summer is invited to attend, as well as their supervisor if they would like. If you know of a college student working here for the summer, please extend the invitation!

Please RSVP to acowles@venangochamber.org or (814) 676-8521.

"The Future of Venango Area Business!"



You may have met **Jessica Ewing-Falco** recently, as she has become very involved with the FLEX young professionals! Jessica is the manager at her family's business—Landscaping Connections / C&S Hilltop Hardware, in Franklin, and C&S Hardware, in Oil City. She was born in Houston, Texas, but both her parents are originally from this area, so they moved back to Franklin after spending time away.

Jessica has a very unique story and has accomplished a lot in her professional and personal life. After graduating from Franklin High School, she served in the United States Navy for five years, where she was based out of Virginia Beach and worked as a Mortuary Affairs Officer and served the Active Duty Members who died during service in the Mid Atlantic Region. She also coordinated the Navy Burial at Sea program and assisted families to fulfill final wishes for deceased Veterans and Retirees of armed services.

While in the Navy, Jessica attended Tidewater Community College where she received her associate's degree in Mortuary Science and Embalming. She then went on to earn her bachelor's degree in Business Management and Marketing from Strayer University.

After living away from Venango County for about 10 years, Jessica decided to come home and help run her family's business and has enjoyed being back in the area. "Being from here and being able to work with people that I have known my whole life is a great aspect to my job," she said.

Jessica's family's business was started by her father, who built it out of his passion for serving the area and to meet the needs of the community. Jessica works hard each day to help the business grow and uphold her father's level of service and duty. Through the business, she continues to learn about the area and experience new things and she enjoys meeting new people who have either been here their whole lives or ventured back after living away, like she did.

"Living in a large city was exciting as a young professional and really helped me realize why being from a small area is so unique," she told us. "We are lucky to live in such a wonderful place and enjoy the people that love to live here as well."

Jessica is blessed with two beautiful children, Harper (2) and Jase (8 mo), and spends as much time with them as possible. She hopes to continue to work hard in the community to build a future for them. "I love living here and I hope they will share that view from growing up here and learning the importance of community," she said.

Jessica also enjoys spending time on the Allegheny River and attending all of the events and festivals offered in the area. She is always excited to visit local businesses and eat in local restaurants, to support likeminded entrepreneurs who are working hard to support the community.

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Ice Cream Social

FLEX held the Oil Heritage Festival Ice Cream Social on Thursday, July 20. Thank you to the young professionals who helped plan the event and volunteered. This is a great fundraiser for FLEX and way for us to get out in the community!





Elizabeth Yale is our newest “FLEX Member in Good Standing” and is an amazing example of what a young professional can accomplish! She lives in Franklin and is the Priest in Charge at St. John’s Episcopal Church.

Elizabeth isn’t originally from our area. She was born in New Jersey, grew up in Bethlehem, PA, and moved to Franklin for her position at the Church in July of 2016. She attended Allegheny College where she earned her bachelor’s degree in Mathematics and Religious Studies, then went on to The University of the South in Sewanee, TN, where she earned her Masters of Divinity. After school, she worked as the curate and school chaplain at Holy Spirit in Houston, Texas. She discovered a call from God to become a priest at just ten years old and reached that goal at the age of 25.

Besides her accomplishment of becoming a priest, Elizabeth has done even more in her life, including completing the Lake Guntersville Olympic Triathlon, graduating with a master’s degree, and journeying to Israel for three weeks—all within one month! While in Israel, she took a course at St. George’s College in Jerusalem and toured the Holy Land. She enjoys traveling and has visited all but three states in the U.S.

In her free time, you can find Elizabeth biking, kayaking at Two Mile Run County Park, practicing yoga, reading novels, crafting, baking, volunteering, and watching murder mysteries. She has some food sensitivities, including Celiac Disease, Lactose intolerance, and a soy allergy, so she loves eating at Amazing Foods because the staff is always helpful in adjusting her meal. She also frequents the Barrow Civic Theatre and enjoys the concerts at Bandstand Park—sometimes she even listens to them from her front porch.

Looking towards the future, Elizabeth plans to lead St. John’s in growing and sharing their resources with the community of Franklin, and she hopes to still be the Church to lead its Bicentennial Celebration in 2026. She also has a goal to complete a Doctor of Ministry degree and visit all the states in the U.S., as well as Antarctica.

“I love the small town ability to get to know people and work with them in many different ways,” Elizabeth said. “I have been very grateful for the new connections which FLEX is helping me create within the community and with other people in my age range.”

We’re very excited that Elizabeth has chosen to make Venango County her home and we look forward to getting to know her even more!

FLEX Membership

To become an official FLEX Member, or “Member in Good Standing,” you just have to fill out our form and pay a one time fee of \$15. As a member, you will receive a FLEX name tag, have the ability to take a leadership position, get discounts at various events, and be able to invest in helping FLEX continue to thrive.

You do not have to be a FLEX Member to come to events. We invite you to attend a social or meeting to decide if FLEX membership is right for you before joining. You can learn more about membership and find the form at venangochamber.org/how-to-join. If you have any questions, please contact Membership Committee Chair Rachel Stiller at r.l.stiller15@gmail.com.

Shirts for Sale!

You can still purchase a FLEX polo shirt! Shirts are \$25 each and available in both men’s and women’s sizes. You can order one at an upcoming meeting or event, or buy one online at: venangochamber.org/catalog/flex-polo.html.



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Second Annual Oil Heritage Festival Bike 'n Brew—Huge Success!

Thank you to everyone who joined us at this year's Bike 'n Brew! Whether you were a sponsor, volunteer, vendor, or attendee, we appreciate your support of the event. We hope you had a great time and enjoyed delicious craft beer, local entertainment, and outdoor activities. Thank you to Chett Delong for the photos:



Thanks once again to our generous sponsors:

Franklin-Oil Region Credit Union, Oil City Moose Family Center 78, Allegheny Mountain Hardwood Flooring, King's Landscaping, Scierka's Tavern, Stifel Nicolaus - Franklin, Wagner Family Eye Care

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:

Student Appreciation Luncheon: Fri. August 4, 12 - 1:30 p.m., Komatsu Mining Corp., Franklin

Campfire Social: Thurs. August 10, 6 p.m., The Barnard House, Emlenton

Monthly Meeting: Wed. August 16, 12 - 1 p.m., Tipsy Chef, Oil City

Coffee & Breakfast Chat: Wed. August 30, 7:30 - 9 a.m., Famoore's, Oil City

Events & Fundraising Committee Meeting: Thurs. August 31, 6 p.m., Liberty Street Ale House, Franklin

Check out the Chamber's Calendar of Events: www.venangochamber.org/calendar

