YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
Saturday, September 29, 2018
Awards
FORTY FORT — More than 300 people were on hand to honor the area’s best and brightest at the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce’s third annual Young Professionals Awards.

“It’s very important for the Chamber to get young professionals involved in the community,” said Chamber chief operating officer Lindsay Bezick. “For us, seeing what they are doing and hearing how they are making an impact is important.”

Bezick, who was later surprised with the 2018 Inspiration of the Year Award, added: “People were excited for the opportunity to nominate people who run a business or people they work with and show their appreciation for them.”

Over 40 young professionals under age 40 were nominated for 11 awards during the event at The Room at 900 on Rutter Avenue.

The winners were not announced before the event because the Chamber wanted to showcase every professional nominated and to give everyone some publicity.

Even those who were not nominated had a lot to gain by just showing up.

“This is a great way to network with other young professionals,” explained Wilkes University graduate assistant Kimberly Hein.

The NEPA Influencer of the Year Award, the top honor of the night, went to Dan Landesberg, administrative director of Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center and Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre.

“It was exhilarating when I heard my name called,” said Landesberg, a Queens, New York native. “But I couldn’t help think about all of the employees at the hospital. Without them, this award isn’t possible.”

He continued: “It’s huge for young people to get involved in their community. There were a lot of great innovators in the room tonight.”

“The true test of leadership is mentoring the next generation to help move us forward.”

The Times Leader Media Group was the official media sponsor for the Young Professionals Awards.

Here is a list of all award winners:

- Intern of the Year: Katharine Marianacci, 23, of PA CareerLink
- Educator of the Year: Dr. Robert Makaravage, 44, Wilkes-Barre Area School District
- Entrepreneur of the Year: Natalie Lynn, 31, Counterpart Kombucha
- Community Advocate of the Year: Jean Holmgren, 34, Maternal and Family Health Services
- STEM Professional of the Year: Dr. Kaitlyn Connors, 30, Northeastern Rehabilitation Associates, Pittston Chiropractic Clinic
- Young Professional Development Award: Navigator, Union + Main Hair Design, and Pepperjam
- Hero of the Year Award: Captain William Court, 29, Wilkes-Barre Fire Department, Ian C. Hughes, 34, Commission on Economic Opportunity
- Cultural Ambassador of the Year Award: Anne E. Rodella, 39, F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts
- Philanthropist of the Year Award: Alana Roberts, 38, PPL Electric Utilities
Congratulations to the 2018 Young Professionals Nominees

Community Advocate of the Year
Kate Shiffer
Robert Riley
Tiffany Crispell

Cultural Ambassador of the Year
Anne Rodella
Lorenzo Medico
Edna Danko

Educator of the Year
Dr. Robert Makaravage
Jennifer Oshinski
Mark Golden

Intern of the Year
Jessica Ross
Katharine Marianacci

Voluntary Leader of the Year
Alison Zurawski
Mary Kate Lambert

NEPA Influencer of the Year
Amanda Hoprich
Brittany Boote
Dan Landesberg
Tiana Burke

Philanthropist of the Year
Alana Roberts
Christine Mackin
Robert Bresnahan Jr.

STEM Professional of the Year
Allison Mahalak
Brian Palmiter
Dr. Kaitlynn Connors

Dr. Steven Hippeli
Lori Girvan
Mary Anzalone
Maura Smith
Samantha Zimmerman
Brian Reese

Hero of the Year
Captain William Court
Ian C. Hughes

Entrepreneur of the Year
Amy Welgus
Brian Stanchak
Charles Brock Siegel
Christina Baranowski
Christopher Hackens
Jessica Sheehan
Rachel Cards Seamans
Matthew Trievel
Natalie Lynn
Nicole Farber

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS 2018

The Bettelli’s Villa family is beyond proud of co-owner and operator Jessica Sheehan for being nominated for Entrepreneur of the Year!

Jessica continues to carry on the legacy of her family, serving the beloved family pizza and offering newer items as well.

Bettelli’s Villa
560 Kidder St., Wilkes-Barre
570-824-3367
www.facebook.com/BettellisVilla
Congratulations Robert Riley on your nomination!

Greater Wilkes-Barre Chambers’ 2018 Young Professionals Community Advocate of the Year Award

Fidelity BANK

For our bankers to work, our clients to bank, our shareholders to invest, and for our community to prosper.

bankatfidelity.com 570.342.8281 | 800.388.4380

The 2018 Young Professional Inspiration Award was presented to Lindsay Bezick, Greater Chamber of Commerce, COO, shown with her parents Charles Griffin and Therese Spagnola.

Congratulations to Captain William Court and Paramedic Jude Spellman with your recent awards.

Wilkes-Barre Bureau of Fire

Jay Delaney, Fire Chief
Alan Klapat, Deputy Chief
Jean Holmgren is a marketer and writer whose work occupies the intersection of public health, digital advertising, and traditional marketing. She is employed by Maternal and Family Health Services, where she serves as the online voice of the agency, managing their website, social media platforms, online advertising, email communications, and public relations. Her work connects women, children, and families in need across Northeast Pennsylvania with life-changing health and wellness services. She is also a frequent speaker on digital advertising for non-profit organizations, and is passionate about helping smaller organizations move into the world of social media. Jean holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from King’s College. She resides in Larksville with her husband, Matt, and their dog, Lana.

Anne E. Rodella is the founding and current Board member of Gaslight Theatre Company, Chairperson of Third Friday Wilkes-Barre Art Block, and a volunteer with the Downtown Wilkes-Barre Association, Friends of the Osterhout Library Book Shop, and Preservation of the Arts Wilkes-Barre City. Anne is a King’s College graduate with a Theatre/English degree and is currently the Director of Sales and Marketing at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts. This past summer, Anne produced her first sensory friendly performance at the Kirby Center and looks forward to increasing the amount of relaxed entertainment options in Wilkes-Barre and at the Kirby Center. Whenever she has free time, Anne is most likely reading, watching Stranger Things, or making pickles.
2018 Educator of the Year

Dr. Robert Makaravage

Age: 44  
Hometown: Wilkes-Barre  
Title: Director of Instruction and Special Education  
Business/Organization: Wilkes-Barre Area School District

Dr. Robert Makaravage currently serves as the Director of Instruction and Special Education for the Wilkes-Barre Area School District. In that role, he oversees the Curriculum, Technology, and Special Education Departments. His goal is to enhance the educational experience for all students through best practices and incorporating 21st century resources into instruction. In addition, he works as an adjunct professor for Wilkes University at the masters and doctorate levels in the Education Department.

2018 Intern of the Year

Katharine Marianacci

Age: 23  
Hometown: Dallas  
Title: Human Services Intern, EDSI  
Business/Organization: PA Career Link

Katharine Marianacci earned her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Wilkes University, where she graduated summa cum laude and received the award for the Most Outstanding Graduate in Psychology. She is now pursuing her Master of Education in Counseling and Human Services at Lehigh University. Throughout her time as an undergraduate and her first year as a graduate student, Katharine gained a wide variety of experiences in the fields of counseling and career development—her favorite being two summer internships at EDSI, a workforce development firm housed within the Wilkes-Barre CareerLink office. As a Human Services intern at EDSI, Katharine helped job seekers overcome barriers and find meaningful employment. She is excited to continue her work in career counseling as the newly appointed Assistant Director at the Lehigh University Center for Career & Professional Development.
Mary Kate Lambert

Age: 28
Hometown: Wyoming
Title: Human Resources Manager
Business/Organization: McCarthy Tire Service

Mary Kate Lambert is the Human Resource Manager at McCarthy Tire Service, a national independent tire dealer owned and operated by the McCarthy family and headquartered in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania. She is a fourth-generation member of the McCarthy family and a member of the company’s management team. Mary Kate serves on the Board of Directors for the United Way of Wyoming Valley, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and the Wyoming Valley Children’s Association, where she is the President of the Board. She also has done various fundraising for the Catholic Youth Center, American Heart Association, Osterhout Library, and Northeast Sight Services. Mary Kate has a Bachelor of Science degree in Human Resource Management and Business Administration from King’s College in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.
Congratulations to Lorenzo Medico, Creative Director for Medico Industries, on being nominated as Cultural Ambassador of the Year at the 2018 Young Professional Awards.

Talented, ambitious and community conscious, Lorenzo goes above and beyond to promote and sustain the culture of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Medico Industries
1500 Highway 315, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18702
570-825-7711
www.medicoind.com | @medicoindustriesinc

2018 NEPA Influencer of the Year
Dan Landesberg

Age: 33
Hometown: Briarcliff Manor, NY
Title: Administrative Director
Business/Organization: Geisinger Wyoming Valley and Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre

Dan Landesberg and his wife, Jana, moved to the Wilkes-Barre area about four years ago when he started in his first position at Geisinger, and they could not be happier with their decision. In his role at Geisinger, Dan oversees day-to-day hospital operations at Geisinger Wyoming Valley and Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre. Dan has been deeply involved in the redevelopment of the Geisinger South Wilkes-Barre campus from an outpatient campus back into an acute care hospital, including the recent reopening of the Emergency Department, as well as the adding of clinical services that have expanded access to care throughout our area. Dan completed both Core and Executive Leadership Wilkes-Barre in 2016, and he serves on the Board of Directors for Luzerne County Head Start and the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce. In his free time, Dan loves the outdoors and playing sports, such as basketball, tennis, cycling, running, hiking, and racquetball.
2018 Philanthropist of the Year

Alana Roberts

Age: 38  
Hometown: Scott Township  
Title: Regional Affairs Director  
Business/Organization: PPL Electric Utilities

Alana Roberts has been working for PPL Corporation for eight years. For the last three, she has served as Regional Affairs Director for the Northeast Region, covering Lackawanna, Luzerne, Monroe, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming Counties. Alana received her Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Science from Juniata College. She is very active in our community, serving on the Board of Directors of Leadership Lackawanna, Scranton Lackawanna Industrial Development Company, Greater Pocono Chamber of Commerce, Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce, Lackawanna County Conservation District, Wayne County Economic Development Corporation, Partners in Education, NEPA Alliance and The Institute for Public Policy and Economic Development. She loves the outdoors and can be found hiking or kayaking locally or at a national park. She resides in Scott Township, Lackawanna County with husband, Jason, a PPL lineman and two young sons, Ethan and Gavin.

2018 Entrepreneur of the Year

Natalie Lynn

Age: 31  
Hometown: Bloomsburg  
Title: Owner/Operator  
Business/Organization: Counterpart Kombucha

Natalie Lynn is the Owner / Operator of Counterpart Kombucha. In five years, she has grown her business from the trunk of her car to stocking the shelves at over 50 locations in four states. Her fully in-house production is done in Drums, PA, and she is a recent resident of Downtown Wilkes Barre. Entrepreneurship runs through her veins; she has big goals and plans for the future!
2018 STEM Professional of the Year

Lori Girvan

Age: 40
Hometown: Forty Fort
Title: Senior Project Manager, Environmental Services
Business/Organization: Barry Isett & Associates

Lori Girvan is a lifelong resident of Forty Fort. She attended Wilkes University and Bloomsburg University. She is the Senior Project Manager of Environmental Services at Barry Isett & Associates and is active in the community through her involvement with the Families for Forty Fort Park (501c3) group.

2018 STEM Professional of the Year

Dr. Kaitlyn Connors

Age: 30
Hometown: Laflin
Title: Chiropractor
Business/Organization: Northeastern Rehabilitation Associates, Pittston Chiropractic Clinic

Dr. Kaitlyn Connors was born and raised in Northeastern Pennsylvania. She earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology and a minor in Spanish from Susquehanna University. She earned her Doctor of Chiropractic degree at New York Chiropractic College in 2013. Dr. Connors is an International Certified Chiropractic Sports Physician and has worked with numerous Olympic and US National team members. She is also certified by the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration as a Certified DOT Medical Examiner and holds a certification in Whole Foods Nutrition from Standard Process. She is the head coach of Pittston Area Field Hockey and is an adjunct professor at Lackawanna College.
2018 Hero of the Year
Captain William Court

Age: 29  
Hometown: Kingston  
Title: Captain  
Business/Organization: Wilkes-Barre City Bureau of Fire

Captain William Court grew up in Kingston, PA where he was a 2007 graduate from Wyoming Valley West. He began his path in fire service as a volunteer with the Kingston Fire Department and enrolled in emergency services classes at Luzerne County Community College. In 2008, he was hired by the Prince William County, VA Department of Fire and Rescue, where he attended a 24 week academy before being assigned to an engine company upon graduation. In 2010, Captain William Court accepted a position with Wilkes-Barre City Bureau of Fire, eventually attaining the rank of Captain in May of this year. In his free time, he enjoys keeping up on physical fitness and lounging around his house with his fiancé, Sam, and dog, Penelope.

2018 Hero of the Year
Ian C. Hughes

Age: 34  
Hometown: Wilkes-Barre  
Title: SSVF Case Manager & SSVF Program Coordinator  
Business/Organization: Commission on Economic Opportunity

Ian Hughes served his country and is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He currently works as an SSVF Case Manager & SSVF Program Coordinator at the Commission on Economic Opportunity. Ian also is involved with homeless veterans throughout 15 counties, including Luzerne County, contributing his time and resources to veterans in need.
Navient is a leading provider of asset management and business processing solutions for education, healthcare, and government clients at the federal, state, and local levels; helps millions of Americans achieve financial success through services and support. Headquartered in Wilmington, Delaware, Navient also employs team members in Indiana, Western New York, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and other locations. In terms of professional development, 51 members of the Navient leadership team have gone through further leadership development programs and 14 members of the leadership team have utilized the company’s Tuition Reimbursement Program. 88% of the leadership team started at entry level and worked through the ranks via promotion. Additionally, members of the leadership team serve on boards of organizations such as United Way of Wyoming Valley, Leadership Wilkes-Barre, Osterhout Library, Luzerne County Head Start. Navient is also an annual participant in Leadership Wilkes-Barre's Leadership Development Series; where one to two management-level employees are sent through. Every year, Navient adopts a classroom at Luzerne County Head Start where employees visit the classroom each month to celebrate birthdays, participate in activities, attend holiday parties and attend the graduation ceremonies and assist in preparing students for kindergarten.
2018 Young Professional Development Award

Established in 2016, Union + Main Hair Design is a full service hair salon, brow bar, and makeup studio. They strive to give unsurpassed service to our guests, but also the best possible education and opportunities to our employees. They work closely with local cosmetology programs to hand select individuals that have passion and drive to succeed not only in the industry, but in life. They take such pride in guiding our apprentices through their two year paid learning process, where the apprentices learn the ins and outs of this business. They learn every aspect from color formulation to cutting skills; client consultation to scheduling; product knowledge to sales; ordering supplies and inventory to how to have a thick skin in a tough industry. When the time comes for them to go off on their own, they can be confident that they know the answer to every question that comes their way. As each one prepares to move forward, they know they have a person to guide them every step of the way.
Pepperjam is an affiliate marketing solutions provider redefining its category through innovative technology and service expertise. They are committed to empowering marketers to control their own destinies by enabling the profitable acquisition of high-value customers while protecting brand safety. Headquartered in Wilkes-Barre, PA, Pepperjam retains offices in Philadelphia, Santa Cruz, Tempe and Toronto. Pepperjam is a portfolio company of Banneker Partners and the Permira Funds. Pepperjam sponsors initiatives through their Giving Committee, which allows their staff to foster a renewable lifestyle through donating their used clothing and household items to local philanthropic organizations. The goal of the Pepperjam Giving Committee is to create opportunities for their employees to give back to the community and inspire collaborative volunteerism. Pepperjam is able to donate much-needed supplies and goods thanks to Pepperjam Cares, a charitable initiative straight from the heart of Pepperjam’s Giving Committee.
Mary Erwine RN, MSN, President  
Erwine Home Health and Hospice Inc. 

Congratulations  
Young Professional Nominees and Winners  
&  
Lindsay Bezick  
2018 Inspiration of the Year Award  

Erwine Home Health and Hospice Inc. 
and Erwine Private Duty Health Care Inc.  
Medicare Certified Full Service Home Health Care in NEPA Since 1993  
Luzerne - Lackawanna - Columbia - Wyoming - Monroe  

270 Pierce Street, Suite 101 • Kingston, PA 18704  
570-288-1013 • ErwineHomeHealth.com  

pepperjam  

THANK YOU!!  
Thank you to the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce for recognizing Maura Smith and Mary Anzalone as outstanding nominees in the STEM category and for Pepperjam’s win for the 2018 Young Professional Development Award (Medium Business Category).  

Pepperjam  
7 S. Main St. #301  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701
Congratulations Alison Zurawski on being nominated Volunteer of the Year in the Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce Young Professionals Awards.

Community Bank N.A.

Congratulations Ali on an honor well received and thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to your local community.

communitybankna.com