

Announcing the *First Ever* Litchfield County Leaders 40

The Northwest Connecticut Chamber's Young Professionals Organization is excited to announce the 40 individuals who have been selected for the first edition of Litchfield County's Leaders Under 40. Nominations of remarkable young people living and working in the northwest corner who are making a difference in their company, school, or community were received throughout the month of March. Over 100 nominations were received.

Awardees were selected by a panel of local leaders who evaluated each nominee using the following criteria: career or educational achievement to-date, commitment to excellence in their industry, leadership within their organization, involvement in the community, leadership in community organizations, and potential impact to the community's future.

The following individuals were selected for the honor:

Katie Adkins, Plymouth Meats
Christian Allyn, Town of North Canaan
Peter Callahan, Fresh Perspectives/Copper Beech Institute
Jamie Cantoni, Jeffrey Tillou Antiques/Western Conn State University
Andrew Deacon, Torrington Public Schools
Jennifer Donovan, Red Barn Consulting
Ruth Dwyer Nadeau, Ackerly Brown LLP
Sarah Dziedzic, Union Savings Bank
Danielle Eichman, Papermoon Dance & Performing Arts
Renee Giroux, Earth's Palate Farm & Partners for Sustainable Healthy Communities
Jessica Gueniat, Torrington Library
Johanna Idrovo-Sarmiento, Northwestern CT Community College
Lauren Johnson, Catalyst Counseling of Connecticut
Jordan Kaine, RN, BSN, Visiting Nurse Services of CT
Phillip Koenig, Wamogo Regional High School
Vince Laliberte, Pursue the Clues
Meghan Lyon, Hoekenga & Machado, LLC /UCONN School of Law
Alain Malcolm, Altek Electronics, Inc.
Katherine Mancarella, North Meadow Farm
Mathew Montgomery, Elevator Service Co., Inc.
Katrin Moskowitz, Community Health & Wellness Center
Brian Ohler, State Representative, 64th District

Kimberly Petzel, Torrington Public Schools
Isabella Pinto, Northwestern CT Community College
Olivia Pinto, Northwestern CT Community College
Zachary Ritchie, Prime Time House, Inc.
Lisselot Rodriguez, Central CT State University
Michael Shea, OD, Blondin Shea Eye Care
Robert Simon, Torrington Police Department
John Simoncelli, Greenwood's Counseling Referrals, Inc.
James Steck, Ebersol, McCormick, Reis & Steck, LLC
Michael Sweeney, Torrington Savings Bank
Carrie Taylor, Brooks, Todd & McNeil Insurance
Jessica Tessman, Central CT State University
Jill Veras-Corey, Torrington Library
Julie Vincent, Susquehanna University
Anthony Vultaggio Jr., Torrington Ford Lincoln
Timothy Waldron, City of Torrington
Michael Whittaker, ESPN
Crystal Wiggins, Northwestern CT Community College

These individuals will be honored in a book, which will be available late July, and at an awards dinner on July 26, 2018. The evening's Emcee will be Natasha Lekwa, Host, Influencer Marketing and Social Media Editor at *Forbes*. Natasha Lekwa is launching an influencer marketing strategy at *Forbes*, where she brings innovation and creativity to the 100 year old media company. As the host of the *Forbes* video series, *The Business of Influence*, Natasha interviews influencers, agencies, and other industry experts from around the world on a range of topics surrounding the social media influencer space. Natasha is focused on content creation and storytelling in new and visual ways using social media platforms. She taps influencers and *Forbes* list makers, including the visionaries of the *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list, *Forbes* Greatest Living Business Minds, Top Influencers, etc. for interviews, takeovers, and content created specifically for each social media platform.

The Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce created the Young Professionals Organization to support and expand the population of young professionals in our region through networking, community involvement and professional development. The Young Professionals Organization is sponsored by our marketing communications agency, Conquest.

The ultimate goal is to make Northwest Connecticut an inviting and attractive place in which young professionals can live and work. The Chamber

recognizes that businesses, state and local governments, civic organizations and the community at large rely on young people to succeed their predecessors in leadership roles. Without leaders to fill vacancies or offer fresh ideas, our region will struggle to remain competitive.

The Chamber's Young Professionals Organization helps men and women in their twenties and thirties develop a peer network and plant roots in the community. This is accomplished through social networking events at local businesses, providing professional development seminars, community service opportunities, and other activities.

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