



NEWS RELEASE

Inaugural Class of Forty Leaders Under Forty Announced, Celebrated at Reception Held in their Honor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 28, 2008

ROCKFORD, IL – The Rockford Chamber of Commerce today announced its first class of 40 leaders, under the age of 40, at a special reception held in their honor at the Rockford Art Museum.

In March the Chamber set out to select and profile 40 leaders under the age of 40 who have distinguished themselves in business, have made a commitment to being engaged in civic affairs and are providing leadership to community groups and causes. "We hoped to provide insight into our region's emerging leaders, the issues they are passionate about and how they lead," said Einar Forsman, chamber president & CEO. "Wow. What we found blew us away. We received an impressive 111 nominations. Deciding on only 40 honorees proved to be a difficult task for our selection committee."

The leaders are individually profiled in a special June edition of *the Voice*, the Chamber's monthly newspaper, and online at rockfordchamber.com. The June *Voice* is now available at outlets throughout the region and the Chamber's offices, 308 W. State St.

"It was very rewarding to learn of the extraordinary leadership being provided by our 2008 class of 40 leaders," said John Groh, the chamber's senior vice president. "The 40 leaders initiative is one way the Chamber can recognize those leaders who are already making a difference, while encouraging other young professionals to take a leadership role in bettering our regional community."

By the Numbers...Here's More About Our 40 Honorees

- 35 of 40 earned a four-year college degree or higher
- 33 of 40 are married or engaged
- 25 men and 15 women were selected
- 22 claim to be boomerangers – grew up here, left for college or other reasons only to move back
- 18 of 40 were born in Rockford
- 16 prefer the morning, 2 the lunch hour, 2 afternoons, 7 the hour right after work, 10 the evening, and 3 don't have a preference
- 11 are on facebook or MySpace
- 5 own up to having tattoos
- 4 are in their 20s
- All of this makes up 1 impressive list of individuals making a difference at work and in the community!

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Nomination & Selection Process

Nomination forms were available at rockfordchamber.com or by calling 815.316.4319. Nominations had to be submitted to the Chamber by April 4, 2008. A total of 111 nominations were received. After a lengthy review process, a 13-member panel, made up primarily of Chamber members and partners, selected the 40 honorees. To be considered, nominees had to be 39 years of age or younger as of June 1, 2008 and live or work in Winnebago, Boone, Ogle, Rock or Stephenson counties.

2008 Forty Under Forty Honorees

Please see the June edition of the Voice for individual honoree profiles.

Honoree alpha by first name	Company/Organization	Title/Position
Amanda Hamaker	Girl Scouts-Rock River Valley Council	Chief Operating Officer
Amy Ott	Chicago Rockford International Airport	Deputy Director of Administration & Finance
Antonio Ramirez	YMCA of Rock River Valley	Associate Program Director, Youth & Teen Development
Bharat V. Puri	First Rockford Group, Inc.	Director of Finance & Development
Bill Miller	Associated Bank	Assistant Vice President, Regional Human Resource Manager
Brendan A. Maher.	Williams McCarthy	Partner, Litigation Group
Brent W. Scott	JPMorgan Chase	Vice President, Commercial Banking
Cedric A. Johnson	American Red Cross – Rock River Chapter	Community Relations Specialist
Chandler Anderson	Icon Development Group	Owner
Conor Brown	Rockford Area Association of Realtors	Government Affairs Director
Dave Anderson	Spring Creek Development Co.	President
David Sidney	Gary W. Anderson & Associates	Urban Planner
Dustin Kaap	Hamilton Sundstrand	Ram Air Turbine Engineer
Earl Dotson, Jr.	Winnebago County	Board Office Deputy Director
Emily Hartzog	Rockford Public Library	Community Relations Officer
Holly Swanson	TV51	General Manager
Ian K. Linnabary	Reno & Zahm LLP	Partner, Attorney
Jeff Hultman	JPMorgan Chase	Senior Vice President and Division Manager
Jennie Pollock	Rockford Register Star	Deputy Managing Editor
Jeremy DeWeerd	Rockford First Assembly	Lead Pastor
Joe Sosnowski	Buckley Companies	Vice President for Commercial Real Estate AND City of Rockford Alderman

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John J. Quinn	FurstGroup	Vice President, Health Care Philanthropy Practice
Jorge Herrera	JPMorgan Chase	Assistant Vice President, Commercial Banking
LaVonne Brown	Savant Capital Management	Director of Client Experiences
Lawrence Morrissey	City of Rockford	Mayor
Lisa A. Anderson	M&I Bank	Assistant Vice President, Preferred Services
Lisa Frost	Lisa Frost Studio	Artist, Teacher, Entrepreneur
Luan Dean	LuLa's Vintage Boutique	Co-Owner
Mary Cacioppi	Village of Roscoe	Director of Economic Development
Melissa Miller	Century 21 Country North	Commercial Broker - Associate
Mike Hakanson	Gambino Homes	Vice President, Realtor
Nicole Baxter	Hamilton Sundstrand	Manager, Rolls-Royce Trent 100 Gearbox program
Pam Maher	KMK Media Group	President
Paul Sletten	Brio @ Bacchus	Owner, Chef
Peter Provenzano	SupplyCore	CEO
Russ Dennis, Jr.	Leading Edge Hydraulics	Vice President
Shane M. Hartje	1st Step Mortgage	CEO
Shari Snyder	Belvidere National Bank	Assistant Vice President of Consumer Lending
Tim Storm	FatWallet	CEO
Tonya Thayer	Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity	Executive Director

The Chamber is grateful to the following individuals for serving on its Forty Leaders Under Forty Selection & Steering Committee:

- Romero Bennett, Blue Sky Insurance Agency and Chamber Board Member
- Vint Buckwalter, Hamilton Sundstrand
- Andy Burningham, United Way of Rock River Valley
- Nancy Forbeck, Greater Beloit Chamber of Commerce
- Kelly Galluzzo, Growth Dimensions for Belvidere-Boone County
- Shane Hartje, First Step Mortgage Group, Inc.
- Emily Hartzog, Rockford Public Library
- Rebecca Kopf, PR Etc., Inc.
- Pam Maher, KMK Media Group, Inc. and Chamber Board Member
- Michael Mastroianni, Rock Valley College and Chamber Board Member

Chamber staff who lead the initiative, and served on the committee:

- Barbara Connors, Rockford Chamber of Commerce
- John Groh, Rockford Chamber of Commerce
- Doug Hessong, Rockford Chamber of Commerce

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Contact: John Groh, Sr. VP, Marketing & Public Affairs: 815.316.4310 or Barbara Connors, VP, Communications: 815.316.4319

The Rockford Chamber of Commerce is a market-driven, voluntary membership organization whose mission is to be the Rockford region's leading advocate for business growth. www.rockfordchamber.com.