

Emerging leaders: Young professionals 40 and under honored by chamber, PYVOT

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BRISTOL - The Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce and Professional Young Visionaries of Tomorrow honored several people 40 or under for their professional or personal leadership and community service Wednesday at the inaugural Emerging Leaders event.

Community leaders and volunteers of all ages gathered at the DoubleTree by Hilton to honor their exemplary young peers.

Dante Tagariello, tax reporting and advisory services at Grant Thornton and Republican candidate for mayor of Bristol, said it was an honor to be recognized.



Brian Johnson | Staff The honorees of the inaugural Emerging Leaders award.

“It’s important to recognize young people in the community,” he said. “They are the next generation that will eventually lead the city. It’s important to share the work they are doing.”

Samantha Rajotte, scholarship and program officer at the Main Street Community Foundation, was also recognized.

“It just goes to show that our community has so many young emerging leaders,” she said. “It goes against the stereotype. Bristol and surrounding towns have a lot of young people who want to build businesses and build their communities where they live.”

Joshua Medeiros, superintendent of the Bristol Parks and Recreation Department, said that it was an honor for him, and for Sarah Larson, recreation and community outreach coordinator at Bristol Parks and Recreation.

“We appreciate that they approve of all the good work we do in Bristol in the parks system.”

Cindy Bombard, president and CEO of the chamber, offered her congratulations.

“These young professionals have been at the forefront, shining light on everything we do today,” she said. “We love that you are local and engaged and making a great impact on businesses and the economy at large.”

The keynote speaker was Dr. Rafaele Fierro, of the Civic Engagement Institute at Tunxis Community College.

He encouraged the honorees to have a love and respect for their history, the ability to be tenacious and work hard and a desire for civility.

Michael Sweeney, of PYVOT and the chamber board, explained that PYVOT was created to help young professionals grow personally, professionally and philanthropically.

“This state has a stereotype of people growing up and all leaving the state,” said Sweeney. “This room shows how false that is.”

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Honorees included the following young professionals:

- . Halley C. Allaire - Attorney at Allaire Law, LLC.
- . Shaun M. Calhoun - Branch Manager at Torrington Savings Bank’s Burlington office.
- . Elizabeth Cowdell - Owner of Creative Concept Kitchens & Bath Design
- . Brent Davenport - Vice President/Owner of The Shaffer Company
- . Jeff Davis - owner of Phase to Phase Electric
- . Meagan DeFazio, operations manager of the Bristol Health Emergency Care Center
- . Dean Greco - Vice President and Banking Center Manager at Webster Bank in Bristol
- . Lucas Karabin - Co-president of Acme Monaco
- . Stephanie L. Casson - Manager at BlumShapiro
- . Kathryn Krajewski - Assistant Town Manager in Farmington
- . Sarah Larson - Recreation & Community Outreach Coordinator at Bristol Parks and Recreation
- . Dr. Joshua Medeiros, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation at Bristol Parks and Recreation.
- . Jessica Quintero-Villa - Owner of Life Family Chiropractic
- . Samantha Rajotte - Scholarship and Program Officer at the Main Street Community Foundation
- . Meghan Rickard - Account Manager at CompuMail Corp.
- . Anna Savastano - Management Assistant for the Town of Farmington
- . Rebekah Stokes - Chief Financial Officer at Thomaston Savings Bank in Thomaston
- . Nicole Sweeney - Owner of Get Up N Dance
- . Dante Tagariello - Tax Reporting and Advisory Service at Grant Thorton and Republican candidate for Mayor of Bristol.