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Emerging Leaders saluted

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by TAYLOR MURCHISON-GALLAGHER

STAFF WRITER

The Professional Young Visionaries of Tomorrow and the Central Connecticut Chambers of Commerce held the inaugural Emerging Leaders event on Wednesday, Sept. 18, where 19 young professionals were recognized for their dedication to their professional life, as well as the betterment of their communities.

The 2019 Emerging Leaders Honorees were Halley Allaire, an attorney with Allaire Elder Law; Shaun Calhoun, the branch manager of the Burlington office of Torrington Savings Bank; Elizabeth Cowdell, owner of Creative Concepts Kitchen & Bath Design; Brent Davenport, vice president and owner of The Shaffer Company; Jeff Davis, owner of Phase to Phase Electric; Meagan DeFazio, operations manager of the emergency care center, Bristol Health; Dean Greco, vice-president, banking center manager at Webster Bank; Lucas Karabin, co-president of Acme Monaco; Stephanie L. Kasson, manager of BlumShapiro; Kathryn Krajewski, assistant town manager of the Town of Farmington; Sarah Larson, recreation and community outreach coordinator for the City of Bristol Department of Parks and Recreation; Dr. Joshua T. Medeiros, superintendent of the City of Bristol Department of 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 of the Town of Farmington; Rebekah Stokes, chief financial officer of Thomaston Savings Bank; Nicole Sweeney, owner of Get Up N Dance; and Dante Tagariello, tax reporting and advisory services with Grant Thornton.

Chairman of the chambers' board of directors, Jay Sattler, said the Emerging Leaders event was created as a way to give young professionals a platform on which to be recognized, and as a way to support all that they have done throughout their careers.

"They're going to be the leaders of tomorrow, and we just want to help open those doors for them, recognize them for all they've done, and just encourage them to keep moving forward," said Sattler.



Keynote speaker, Rafaele Fierro, director of the Civic Engagement Institute at Tunxis Community College, explained that CEI was formed about two years ago, and serves as a campus organization that “has devoted itself to making our students more civically active.”

He described present-day America as “needing some fixing,” the opioid crisis and rising rates of poverty as among the items needing fixing.

The solutions require energy, civic action, on all levels, especially at the local level.”

Fierro addressed the honorees.

He said there are three steps necessary for the honorees – to never forget where they came from, to work hard and persevere, and to be kind.

“It’s up to you the emerging leaders to create a paradigm shift, whereby you continue to incorporate these three qualities, that love and respect for the past, that ability to work hard and persevere, and that civility that is essential for a civil society,” said Fierro.

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