Congratulations to this year's award recipients!

Garrett R. Bader
Melinda Morella
James Ledvina
Jessica Diederich
William Kocken

Rebecca Pruess
Matt Brault
Monica Moe
Michael Schwartz-Oscar
Laura Mossakowski, CFP®

Rashad J. Cobb
Robyn Gruner
Mark Becker
Shannon Goerke
Dean Leisgang

CURRENT
Young Professionals
GREATER GREEN BAY CHAMBER
Current is a program of the Greater Green Bay Chamber that works to attract, engage, develop and retain young talent in the Greater Green Bay area. Current strives to captivate the young professional audience and initiate their involvement in the local business community.

Programming
Current’s programming is carefully balanced to offer a variety of activities that consider the needs of young professionals and their employers. Programming includes social activities, membership programs, professional events and group activities.

Membership
Current offers both individual and corporate memberships. Corporate membership waives dues for all employees while providing favorable marketing exposure and altruistic support of our mission.

To learn more, visit: GreenBayCurrent.org

Young Professional of the Year
Sponsored by Hawkins Ash CPAs
Young Professional of the Year will be selected from the pool of Future 15 recipients. This honor is presented to an individual with a demonstrated commitment to Brown County through civic and business involvement, especially during the past year.

Young Entrepreneur of the Year
Sponsored by M2 Logistics, Inc.
This award is presented to a local business owner who exemplifies and holds true a commitment to Brown County through his/her demonstrated business accomplishments. Consideration includes but goes beyond financial success to evaluate this individual’s positive impact on the community as an entrepreneur.

Next Generation Best Place to Work
Sponsored by PAi
This award is presented to a business that demonstrates a commitment to the development of young professionals, adapts work-life friendly policies, values generational differences and institutes attraction and retention initiatives for young talent.

Future 15 recipients will be honored and awards will be presented at a special event on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015 from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. at the Hyatt on Main/KI Convention Center. Community members are encouraged to attend. To register for this event, visit greenbaycurrent.org.

Proud past Future 15 award recipient and committee advisor

www.SeizeTheDayEvents.com
Each year, Current Young Professionals Network, a program of the Greater Green Bay Chamber, recognizes 15 individuals who are growing and excelling in their respective fields. These Future 15 have not only experienced outstanding personal and professional growth, but their community involvement is improving the quality of life for others in Brown County.

Garritt R. Bader cites establishing his own real estate firm as one of the most rewarding accomplishments of his life. Bader jumped into business ownership in April 2009, at the heart of the economic downturn. Instead of fretting over the obstacles before him, Bader made the most of every opportunity and now celebrates success as a result of his hard work.

As a commercial real estate broker and developer, Bader has had a hand in bringing national retailers into communities throughout Wisconsin and other parts of the country. He is the real estate broker for Family Dollar; Bader has worked with the retailer to open stores in seven states. He also landed Costco as a client.

“With persistence and a determination to make people change their opinions about what we could accomplish in Green Bay, Costco opened in Green Bay on Oct. 17, 2013,” Bader says. Thanks to Bader, Costco will likely open a store in Appleton later this year.

In November 2014, Bader received the Mayor’s Beautification Award for his Whitney Park Townhomes project. Bader has been self-developing the real estate with investors. This first-of-its-kind residential development will transform the troubled neighborhood with quality, urban-style homes.

“I’m grateful for being recognized for my efforts to rebuild the Whitney Park neighborhood—an endeavor that will increase property values in the area by 600 percent,” Bader adds.

Bader matches his community service efforts with his mission to promote economic growth. He is a member of the physical improvements committees for Downtown Green Bay Inc. and Olde Main Street Inc. and the design committee for the Military Avenue Business Association.

“In all three organizations we aim to improve the physical appearance of the districts in the belief that making neighborhoods visually appealing makes them economically appealing, leading to business growth and tax base growth,” he adds.

What is Bader most passionate about? Making Green Bay the best it can be.

“I’ve lived in bigger cities, I’ve visited bigger cities, and there are cool things going on in the metropolitan areas that typically attract young professionals. But I believe we can bring elements of that here so they want to call Green Bay home,” Bader says.

“**My vision for Greater Green Bay is one where we as a community embrace our uniqueness and finally take advantage of our world-renowned name.”**
Melinda Morella is known for her persistence. She finds a way to accomplish complex tasks by exploring creative solutions and surrounding herself with the right people.

Morella began her career as a bilingual kindergarten teacher in Green Bay. She was determined to better serve the needs of her students so she obtained a master’s of education degree while teaching full time.

“It was very important to me to gain the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and address the needs of struggling bilingual readers,” Morella says.

While Morella adored the time she spent with students, she was drawn to a career in community health. In 2012, she joined Live54218, an emerging nonprofit organization focused on building a healthier community and addressing issues of health inequality. The following year Morella became the assistant director of Live54218.

“Since beginning my career at Live54218, I have fully immersed myself in the local, statewide and national obesity prevention movement,” she says.

Morella works to engage schools as partners in building a healthier community. She speaks at local, regional and statewide conferences about the importance of involving schools in health and working together to create positive change. In the last three years, Morella has served on the grant writing and fund development team for Live54218, leveraging close to $1 million in funding.

While Morella encourages healthful lifestyles, she also promotes health equality. She is working to expand access to farmers markets by low-income residents so they can purchase fresh fruits and vegetables.

“Bringing together a diverse group of community partners to work on this project has resulted in additional farmers markets wishing to expand EBT to their markets, which will impact even more low-income residents in the Greater Green Bay area,” Morella adds.

Morella participates in a handful of other local and state organizations. She serves on the board of directors for Literacy Green Bay and on committees for Wisconsin Obesity Prevention Network and Wisconsin Active Communities Alliance.

“I am most passionate about improving the quality of life of residents in the community,” adds Morella. “I am very passionate about helping those in need, encouraging healthy lifestyles—personally and professionally—and education.”

James Ledvina grew up in the Greater Green Bay area. While he spent years away pursuing his education—a bachelor’s degree, master’s degree and finally law degree—Ledvina always had his heart set on coming back home to start his career.

Ledvina has been an attorney at Law Firm of Conway, Olejniczak & Jerry, S.C. for the last five years, dedicating his days to estate planning, probate mergers and acquisitions, corporate real estate tax and nonprofit work. Ledvina helped create several new nonprofit entities that serve Northeast Wisconsin.

Individuals benefit from Ledvina’s knowledge of the law as he assists with establishing new businesses, formulating estate plans and navigating complex legal issues. When the Affordable Care Act became a major issue, Ledvina acted as a resource so individuals and businesses could properly plan and apply the new law.

“I am passionate about teaching individuals how to run successful businesses and charitable organizations. Some general knowledge goes a long way in preventing issues and keeping organizations operating,” Ledvina says.

The industry has honored Ledvina for his accomplishments. He was recognized the last two years as a Wisconsin Super Lawyer Rising Star, an award given to only two percent of all attorneys in the state.

Ledvina also does his part by getting involved and volunteering in the community. A graduate of Leadership Green Bay, Ledvina is proud to have put smiles on children’s faces with an interactive mural project completed for the CP Center. As vice-chair for the Salvation Army of Brown County advisory board, Ledvina works to ensure the organization can continue offering its many services to the community.

“The Salvation Army provides an amazing amount of social and charitable services to the citizens of Brown County. It is my goal to assist the Salvation Army so they can continue their work,” Ledvina adds.

“My vision for Greater Green Bay is for all residents, regardless of age, race, income or gender, to live happy, healthy lives in a community that is thriving, vibrant and diverse.”

“My vision of Green Bay is a place that will draw and retain young, energetic and innovative young professionals. The redevelopment of downtown and Broadway is the spark that Green Bay needs to create an area that is fun and attractive to young professionals.”
Jessica Diederich

**Director of Partnerships and Business Development**

Greater Green Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau

**Age:** 35

The Packers, and Packers fans, are to credit for bringing Jessica Diederich to Green Bay. When a company was courting the South Dakota native to move to Northeast Wisconsin in 2000, they took Diederich to a Packers game. A few weeks later she was loading the moving van.

Now, as director of partnerships and business development for the Greater Green Bay Convention & Visitors Bureau, Diederich has the opportunity to showcase what she loves about Greater Green Bay to visitors from across the globe.

“I have always loved to travel, which is fitting in my current position as I get to show people from all over the world how wonderful our community is,” Diederich says.

She is always working to develop new ideas; she also keeps her eye on what’s happening in other cities. Restaurant Week is an accomplishment of which she is proud.

Diederich discovered Restaurant Week was a successful event in major cities, such as New York and Chicago, and she believed it was something our community would support. After two years of research and planning, Green Bay’s first Restaurant Week took place in summer 2013.

“It was amazing!” Diederich says. “Year one, restaurants sold 18,000 Restaurant Week meals and the event had an economic impact of $570,000 on our community. Year two, restaurants served more than 30,000 meals with an economic impact of $1 million+.”

While her day job allows her to make an impact on the community, she looks for opportunities to share her time and talent outside the office. Diederich volunteers for numerous local nonprofit organizations, including The Salvation Army, Habitat for Humanity and the Make-A-Wish Foundation. She has been a wish granter for Make-A-Wish for the last 16 years.

“When I first encounter a wish family, they are quite possibly going through the hardest time of their lives, and I get to be part of something that helps them forget their situation, even if it’s just for a short time,” she says.

As a member of the Make-A-Wish Gourmet Wishes committee, Diederich has helped the event grow 130 percent over the last three years. Funds raised last year will allow the organization to grant 25 wishes.

**VISION**

“We need to keep the momentum going by both keeping great people here as well as bringing in new and fresh minds. We face a future where baby boomers will retire and we’ll start to see a gap between positions needing to be filled and the skills our young people have to offer.”

William Kocken

**Staff Sergeant**

Wisconsin Army National Guard

**Age:** 30

William Kocken has tremendous drive and discipline. He starts his day when most wouldn’t dream of getting out of bed.

His day begins at 4:30 a.m. with a workout; he’s in the office by 7:30 and jumps right into his day. He developed this discipline while training to serve his country.

Kocken is an employee of the Wisconsin Army National Guard. While he has had different roles, Kocken now works at the National Guard office in Ripon. Kocken refused to give up his Brown County residence so he accepts the hour-and-15-minute commute twice a day.

“My heart and soul is in this community—it is where I was raised,” he adds.

Kocken’s accomplishments are impressive. He received numerous awards related to his service. Kocken recently trained and competed at the 2014 Army Best Ranger Competition. He completed the grueling 60-hour competition, traveling more than 100 miles while in full equipment with ever-increasing weight. Of the 50 qualifying teams, Kocken finished as part of the 19th Best Ranger team in the military.

Most days, drawing up training schedules, completing risk assessments, evaluating training and helping with overall unit readiness is all in a day’s work. He fills his evenings coaching wrestling or assisting the Boy Scouts.

When asked what he’s most passionate about, Kocken says supporting veterans. “Helping veterans, being around veterans, listening to their stories—our brotherhood and sisterhood is very strong,” he adds.

As a co-founder and vice president of 4th HOOAH WI (Helping Out Our American Heroes), a local nonprofit organization, Kocken is able to touch the lives of countless veterans and their families.

Kocken reveals he was discouraged when he learned the high rate of suicide among veterans, so he took action. In 2013, Kocken organized a 22-mile suicide awareness march. The event’s 70 participants raised more than $11,000 to help veterans in need. The following year the number of walkers and money raised doubled.

He works each day to honor America’s heroes, whether it is by putting up a flagpole in a veteran’s yard or searching for a way to improve a veteran’s quality of life.

**VISION**

“A critical issue across Wisconsin, including Green Bay, is the crisis number of homeless veterans—veterans account for 11 percent of the homeless in Wisconsin. While Green Bay is building the Veterans Manor to help resolve some level of the veteran homelessness, this will not solve the issue by itself.”

**Current** is a program of the Greater Green Bay Chamber
To say Rebecca Pruess is ambitious is an understatement. The Green Bay native has been working since age 12, caring for children, being a receptionist and managing retail. While she’s since earned her bachelor’s degree, the 25-year-old is just as determined.

Pruess is currently a compliance analyst at Schneider. If she sees a process that could be more efficient, Pruess finds a way to fix it. Aware that she doesn’t have all the answers, Pruess will use the resources that are available to find the solution, whether that requires her to personally research a question or find the right person to ask. “I am not content to just go to work every day, do my job and go home. I am continually striving to do better and be better,” Pruess says.

Pruess’ drive to “do better” doesn’t just play out at work. She believes there are many ways to give back to the community. She adds, “I am passionate about making our community the best place it can be.”

One of the accomplishments Pruess is most proud of is Walk a Mile in Her Shoes, an international men’s march to stop domestic violence. Pruess worked on this event as a participant in Leadership Green Bay.

Many of her volunteer hours are spent supporting organizations that help women and girls, including the Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes, The Women’s Fund of Greater Green Bay, After Thoughts series at University of Wisconsin – Green Bay and Golden House.

“When our women and girls are breaking the cycle of poverty, teenage pregnancy and domestic violence, they are better poised to continue their education and obtain life-sustaining jobs,” Pruess says.

She looks to make an impact on the community by serving on the steering and executive committees for Current Young Professionals Network. While recruiting new members, Pruess strives to be an ambassador to the public and business community.

She is also thinking about her future. She says, “Growing my network, continually learning, volunteering to lead projects or teams, identifying and closing gaps in my skill set and working with my leader to discuss next career steps are things I do every day that will ultimately advance my career.”

Matt Brault is passionate about driving positive change. By being results driven and acting on the facts, Brault has successfully resolved challenging issues, both in his workplace and in the community.

As a software developer at Schreiber Foods, Brault partnered with the organization’s business and executive teams and led a team to use tools to standardize work, streamline processes and effectively manage vendors to deliver solutions on time. Brault’s leadership in this endeavor resulted in a promotion to lead software developer in 2011; soon after he became team leader of application development.

“My goal for my team since taking over in 2011 was to improve user experience with our systems and reduce technical support,” Brault says. “Overall support has been reduced by 50 percent.”

Brault is inspiring positive change in the Greater Green Bay community through his involvement in various organizations, including Leadership Green Bay, Wings Over Wisconsin – Denmark Chapter and Hemophilia Outreach Center.

While anyone who has participated in Leadership Green Bay knows the experience is powerful, Brault reveals the number of applicants was decreasing. Business support was also down. Brault helped to address this, chairing the membership and marketing committee.

“I defined goals and objectives for my committee that align with the steering board’s goals for the program. This has allowed us to be more efficient and drive impactful changes for the program,” Brault says. These changes include a sustainable class recruitment process, rebranding and marketing the Leaders Club and defining ways to get employers more engaged with the program.

Brault influences area youth by volunteering at an elementary school and helping children with math, reading and spelling. “Education is important and is key to help grow and advance our community,” he adds.

In addition to volunteering at a Green Bay school, Brault serves on the board for Wings Over Wisconsin – Denmark Chapter, an organization dedicated to natural resource preservation and education through youth and community involvement. The chapter struggled to communicate its vision and establish community support. Brault took the lead, engaging businesses to support projects, calling on media to market the chapter and leveraging social media. These efforts secured sponsorships to fund $15,000 for improvement projects.

“My future vision for Greater Green Bay is a vibrant and inclusive community that is a great place for people to live, work and play.”

“I believe having an educated and healthy community will indirectly improve the economic landscape and quality of life for all people in our community.”
Monica Moe has a knack for making things happen.

“When I have a goal I want to reach, I don’t stop until I reach it, especially when it involves helping my community and the causes I am most passionate about,” Moe says.

In 2011, Moe graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay with a bachelor’s degree in public administration and environmental policy. After graduation she joined the AmeriCorps VISTA program. Moe served Green Bay’s Habitat for Humanity chapter for a year, raising funds to cover the cost to build homes for the area’s low-income families.

After completing her year of service, and at age 23, Moe became the development director for the YWCA of Greater Green Bay.

Moe believes one of her greatest accomplishments has been securing the start-up funding for the YWCA’s Women’s Empowerment Center, a job training and mentoring program that serves more than 500 women each year.

“Because of my diligence in finding and securing a major gift to start this program, low-income women are receiving essential career experience and training to find employment that pays a livable wage,” Moe says.

Moe has taken the training program a step further. Thanks to her initiative, the YWCA is opening a coffee café in 2015 to provide women real-life job experience while bringing in sustainable funding for the program.

In 2014, Moe brought TechGYRLS to Northeast Wisconsin. This after-school program introduces girls to possible careers in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math.

When asked what she is most passionate about, Moe says helping those in need.

“I am passionate about helping those individuals who wait outside in the cold every night to get into our local homeless shelters or assisting those individuals who are unable to receive basic needs for themselves and their families,” she adds.

Moe is determined to provide resources and support those who are facing obstacles in their lives from poverty or restricted incomes.

“I don’t give up. I keep working and thinking outside of the box until I find a way around an obstacle in front of me,” she says.

Michael Schwartz-Oscar was first recognized for making a difference in his California community as a teen. He stood out in his class of 1,300 students.

Fast-forward a few years. Schwartz-Oscar moved to Green Bay in 2013 and has already touched countless lives by dedicating his days to serving others.

Schwartz-Oscar is the executive director of The Volunteer Center of Brown County. He first walked through the doors of the center searching for an opportunity to get involved; Schwartz-Oscar was soon hired to help the organization.

His work at the center allows Schwartz-Oscar to have the greatest influence on the community. He explains many nonprofits lack the volunteers or supplies they need and in turn, the most vulnerable individuals in society are impacted. Schwartz-Oscar believes everyone has a part to play in shaping the community.

“I am passionate about improving our community. I think for anyone to really enjoy their life, they need to be helping others. We are all in this together,” Schwartz-Oscar says.

By personally volunteering for Habitat for Humanity, Schwartz-Oscar explains he is responding to Northeast Wisconsin’s issues of poverty and homelessness. He also leads a Goodwill Circles of Support group for recently released prisoners who want help transitioning back into the community.

“This role, perhaps more than others, required me to take initiative and see the group through organizational challenges,” Schwartz-Oscar adds.

While he is still getting settled in the area and in his position, Schwartz-Oscar looks for creative ways to tackle the significant challenge before him. He meets with local leaders, listens to the dedicated people around him and tries to improve the center’s offerings.

“If we can truly be a resource to nonprofit community partners in the Greater Green Bay area, then we have succeeded because they are the ones building this community and partnering with those most in need,” he says.

“Never in my life have I witnessed more of an altruistic spirit and commitment to volunteerism than in Wisconsin, which is presumably why Wisconsin is ranked in the top 10 nationally for its commitment to service. Humbly I believe through my work at The Volunteer Center and my volunteer activities that I will impact Greater Green Bay by connecting more people to meaningful volunteer opportunities.”
Laura Mossakowski has been promoting financial literacy for the last 15 years. Mossakowski decided to become a licensed independent financial planner at age 22 when she discovered her own financial advisor was not looking out for her best interests and the well-being of others. She now dedicates her days to serving and educating the community.

“I felt change was needed in the financial industry,” Mossakowski says. “I decided I wanted to do what was right for the client, and I figured I could make a living doing it.”

Mossakowski established a practice that specializes in financial planning for women and their families. She provides compassionate education and support, cheering on her clients as they work to achieve their financial goals.

“By using planning techniques I’ve learned, I can help clients be more efficient. I can usually suggest a more streamlined method and get them on track to where they want to be financially,” Mossakowski says.

Her clients and staff are her top priority. She’s established a warm and inviting office that makes conversations about money more comfortable.

“We strive to remove the cold, sterile feelings associated with talking about money,” she adds.

While she has received industry awards, including The Million Dollar Roundtable Member Award for the last 10 years, Mossakowski explains her greatest reward is the heart-warming letters received from happy clients.

Mossakowski takes great pride in giving back to the community, especially when her efforts help local children or animals. She made a difference in the lives of 3,000 children this year through her involvement in Service League of Green Bay and by co-chairing the organization’s Back-to-School event. Mossakowski also worked diligently to raise funds and make a Bellevue dog park a reality.

While Mossakowski believes in the value of giving back, she feels it’s possible to touch the lives of others with simple gestures. “It’s making sure your family and friends are taken care of. It’s being present every day,” she says.

“**My vision for Greater Green Bay includes economic prosperity and stability that are spurred partially via increased channels of financial education for youth and adults. I want to help to equip people with high levels of education on how to successfully manage money at different stages in their lives, how to implement the fundamentals of investing, reduce the effects of inflation on their standard of living, set goals and plan for their future.**”

Rashad J. Cobb devotes a great deal of his time and energy supporting individuals as they move toward self-sufficiency.

“I am most passionate about people—people reaching their full potential in as many aspects of their life as possible, including their well being, general happiness and healthy living,” Cobb says.

As the education and career development coordinator for the Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay, Cobb oversees some of the organization’s programs, including Teens 2 Work (T2W) and BE GREAT.

T2W matches area youth with entry-level employment opportunities. Thanks to Cobb and T2W, 107 area youth secured employment in the area last year.

BE GREAT is a mentoring program. Cobb helped to match 116 at-risk middle and high school students with mentors to keep them on track for graduation. Cobb explains members of local and state government recognized the value of the program, which resulted in additional program funding.

Cobb says helping area youth find their path to post-secondary educational opportunities has been his most rewarding professional accomplishment. In the last two years, Cobb has assisted dozens of local teens go to college.

“I have found that once we assist our youth with getting accepted to college that the next and most important step is getting them connected with a professional on their campus of choice who works with first-generation college students,” Cobb says. “I have led my team to better understand that assisting our youth with making better decisions about the schools that they apply to only benefits the youth in the long term.”

Cobb is a member of Current Young Professionals Network, graduate of Leadership Green Bay, board member for Literacy Green Bay and member of The Brown County United Way’s Emerging Leaders Society Advisor Council. He strives to join various organizations and be present at as many community activities as possible.

“**My vision for economic prosperity for Greater Green Bay focuses on the attracting of businesses that have the ability to hire a skilled workforce. This vision also includes further development and the expansion of existing companies and their facilities. My vision for the quality of life in Greater Green Bay is to have our community continue to support activities and initiatives that get people moving and eating healthier.**”
Robyn Gruner considers herself a people person. She’s also a risk taker. “When faced with any unknown situation, my attitude has always been driven by the question, ‘What’s the worst that can happen?’” Gruner says.

Gruner’s willingness to embrace any opportunity and overcome any obstacle has resulted in a successful career and a strong connection to the community.

Gruner is director external affairs for AT&T. Given her strengths—making connections with people—it was only natural she began her career in sales. She survived two years of selling long-distance telephone service to businesses by going door-to-door, and her accomplishments in the roles that followed propelled Gruner up the corporate ladder to where she is today.

When her job brought her to Northeast Wisconsin several years ago, Gruner jumped right in, searching for ways she could make an impact on the community she now calls home. One of her most noteworthy accomplishments is creating a new chapter of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) in Outagamie County.

“This process was incredibly consuming of time, energy, resources and passion,” says Gruner. Since its inception in 2013, the CASA chapter has had a direct impact on the lives of more than 40 children in the community.

“Providing a positive impact to these kids is an attempt to make their life better, give them a chance for a future, and ultimately, break the cycle of violence so that their own children someday will not suffer from abuse or neglect,” she adds.

Remember her willingness to try anything? When asked to participate in the “Shall We Dance” fund-raiser to benefit the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of the Fox Cities, Gruner didn’t hesitate.

“I was so proud to be able to commit the time and energy to promoting this amazing cause and felt beyond accomplished when I performed my routine in front of an audience of more than 800 community members last October,” she adds.

Gruner serves on the board of directors for Advance, the economic development branch of the Greater Green Bay Chamber, and supports the Boys & Girls Club of Green Bay. She also makes time to fulfill her own aspiration of obtaining a college degree. Gruner is on track to graduate in 2016.

Mark Becker’s drive and determination make him stand out from the crowd. Becker received his marketing degree from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College (NWTC) and worked his way up the corporate ladder. He became a finance manager at Dorsch Ford Kia and was asked to help establish a Dorsch West location.

“With an entrepreneurial spirit and a drive to succeed, the business took off and is running smoothly,” Becker says. “We had nothing and we built it into the fastest-growing used car dealership in the area.”

Becker’s efforts resulted in the dealership receiving the Quality Dealership Award for 2013 from ASC Warranty, Inc. He strives to advance his career by coming to work every day and doing his best.

Becker is heavily involved in local politics. At age 25, Becker became the youngest chairman in Brown County Republican Party history. He joined the party in hopes of boosting the electorate.

“Upon entering the organization, I could see problems that existed. We weren’t member friendly, our membership was declining and we didn’t have a large treasury. I knew I could turn the ship around,” he adds.

Even though he was faced with opposition, Becker successfully opened the meetings, made the organization friendly to all conservative-minded people and helped double the treasury. He continues to aggressively promote the Brown County GOP, inform the electorate and speak out about issues that need to change.

“I believe that being a leader is not to simply go along but to point out injustice whenever it sits,” says Becker.

Becker intends to keep working for the greater good. He hopes to further his involvement in Green Bay by running for alderman in the near future.

“I know what it takes to be successful. I work very hard to make sure I get to where I want to go, in my business life, in my personal life and in my volunteer life,” Becker says.
Dean Leisgang has been a communications professional for more than two decades. In that time, he has received more than 50 local and national awards for broadcasting excellence.

As executive director at Educational Television Productions of Northeast Wisconsin (ETP-NEW), Leisgang prepares the organization for the future of broadcasting by executing fresh ideas and developing valuable partnerships.

“The most important qualities I bring to my job are innovative thinking and strategic planning. It is essential to be innovative in the way we produce our television programs to reach new audiences in new ways,” he says.

Leisgang explains his innovative spirit is important as he leads the organization, collaborates with outside organizations and looks to the future.

Leisgang prides himself on being a lifelong learner. He realizes the way the world communicates is changing, so he explores ways to use the latest technology in his organization’s day-to-day operations and individual projects. To stay ahead of the curve, Leisgang took it upon himself to learn how to produce animated and whiteboard videos. These techniques are currently in high demand because they deliver quick, targeted messages to viewers.

“The new video formats have certainly created more work but the returns have been great. Now the masses are sharing our videos thanks to a creative approach to storytelling,” says Leisgang.

While his outside-the-box thinking has had an impact on his professional success, Leisgang is making a difference in our community and beyond.

Leisgang uses his video know-how to provide education on statewide issues. The topics are tough – homelessness, suicide prevention and heroin awareness – but Leisgang believes the rewards are great.

“I am fortunate to be able to help various organizations tell their stories and be a connecting point for vulnerable populations through our television programs and videos,” he adds.
Community involvement is a cornerstone of our business philosophy. As your neighbors and friends—and as residents of Northeast Wisconsin, we are dedicated to being a part of what makes this community a wonderful place to live and work. We congratulate the Future 15 for their outstanding contributions to our community.

Law Firm of
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Passion for involvement • Willingness to contribute • Vision for the future

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supporting our young professionals of today and into the future - in and out of the saddle!

Congratulations to
Robyn Gruner for being named a Future 15 recipient!

Petal Pusher
Proud sponsor of the Future 15

Enjoy the Winner’s Circle.

Congratulations to all Future 15 Young Professionals and other award winners.

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congratulations to all of the winners, and thank you for the positive impact you make in our community every day!
Tufco is pleased to recognize all Future 15 participants for their contributions to our community. It is your creativity and talents that will allow Greater Green Bay to grow and prosper.

We are proud to have you on our team!

Prevea Health would like to congratulate this year’s Future 15 winners. We know your talents will lead Green Bay well into the future.

BEST W15HES!

BMO Harris Bank is proud to sponsor Current’s Future 15 and Young Professional Awards on February 24.

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Downtown Green Bay, WI
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