



Amanda Andreoni (1983)

Marien Mae Bridal Boutique & Events

Owner / Bridal Consultant

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment ?

Following in my fathers footsteps and opening my own business!

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to. IVAC, "Loads of Love", RCC

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I love being part of a small community and truly feel this area has so much to offer!

This area is the perfect location for raising a family and owning a business The people and small town feel is unmatched!

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? I see myself taking my business to the next level and opening full service linen business. I plan to still work with brides on a daily basis and provide the community with a unique one stop wedding destination!

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I am very excited for the potential to be able to give back to the area. I am originally from Wolcott, IN. and am eager to be an active member of my new community.



Matt Baker

NewsTribune

Reporter

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? In my nearly four years at the NewsTribune I've written some stories that I feel have provided valuable service to the community, but I'm perhaps most satisfied with the opportunities to help the community that my semi-public position has allowed me. I've acted to benefit the Hegeler Carus Foundation, danced to benefit the Illinois Valley Chapter of American Red Cross and told stories to benefit St. Bede Academy.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? La Salle Rotary Club

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? Although not a very inspiring tale, my decision was motivated by the simple opportunity to have a full-time position doing something in which I'm interested. I never expected to find a career in the Illinois Valley that would allow me to write and shoot photos and video, so the opportunity with the NewsTribune was a great surprise.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? Assuming some of the recent efforts I've seen to rejuvenate local communities are sustained, the area has great potential to improve it's presence and awareness in the greater Northern Illinois region.



Curt Bedei (1979)

Ottawa Visitors Center/ Curt Bedei Designs
Graphic Design Manager/ Freelance Designer

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

Painted a 1000sq ft mural in Streator, IL in 2008.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to?

AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Artists), Golden Key Honor Society, getLIT (citizens activist group centered around a healthy lifestyle), Co-Manager of the Streator Farmers Market, Seeking membership into ONYX (Ottawa Network of Young eXecutives). I also dedicate my time and efforts to many volunteer groups and activities, and spend time participating in the local VNEA Pool League.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? This is where my roots are. My family has lived here for over a century. This has always been my home and I have a lot of pride in my community and what it has to offer.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? This area will become more of a tourist attraction and cater to their needs. The district will also be sustainable and will eliminate the title "Food Desert" by having options for a healthy choice for food and food products.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Would like to see myself owning and operating an organic grocery CO-OP. Continuing efforts in the food movement by introducing a program for gardens for schools. Also, continued success as a graphic designer by owning my own firm.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. By growing organic vegetables on a one half acre of ground I am able to provide friends and family with fresh produce as well as participate in the Streator Farmers Market. Which I have given it an identity, built it up, and will continue to help it flourish to be a sole attraction for farmers, families, tourist and the community.



Nate Begly (1987)

Didoughs Twisted Pretzel Company
Manager, Peru Mall location

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? Building Didoughs Twisted Pretzel Company along side my parents. And, managing the Peru Mall store since 2007.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I was raised in the area; spent time in Pennsylvania; and, moved back to be closer to family and the business. And, because it has been a proftiable area for the business and us.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I hope to own my franchise in the LaSalle County area. I also see it as a very happening area with a lot of new growth.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? We are currently looking for the next location for Didoughs Express drive thru concept. I see myself continuing to work alongside my parents to build and expand our brand.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I have been working with my parents from the age of 16 building our brand—8 years! I spent a lot of time working hard at Didoughs to make sure our brand is not compromised.



Todd Bogatitus (1973)

TNT Lawn & Snow LLC

Owner

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

Building my company from a very small operation, where I was the only employee and equipment consisted of one lawn mower and one truck for snow removal, to a company where we have 14 seasonal employees, 2-3 crews in operation throughout the lawn care season and up to 12 units operating during the snow removal season.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Chief, Spring Valley Fire Department & Member, ILICA (Illinois Land Improvement Contractors of America)

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I have always lived in the IVCC district. I enjoy this area, as most of my family and friends are here, and the close proximity to IVCC provides my business with continuing educational opportunities for my employees.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I hope the IVCC district will grow to attract new businesses and to provide better opportunities for our existing businesses.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? I believe I will continue to work with my employees to maintain what we have worked so hard to build. We pride ourselves on providing the highest quality service at a reasonable price, by employing individuals who professionally communicate with our customers and continue to educate themselves in our field.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I believe strongly in supporting local charities, especially our youth organizations, both through financial contributions and time commitments and encourage my employees to do the same.



Karen Brodbeck (1984)

Ottawa Regional Hospital & Healthcare Center
Director of Marketing and Community Relations

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

The team I lead recently earned two national awards for excellence in medical marketing. My work was also honored by the Illinois Society for Healthcare Marketing & Public Relations during its annual conference this year.

List the professional and personal organizations that you

belong to? I am currently a member of ONYX (Ottawa Network of Young eXecs), the Ottawa Noon Rotary club, the Elks, the Illinois Health Cares coalition, and St. Columba Church. I also co-chair the Professional Division of the United Way Campaign Cabinet.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I see a need here that I'm trying to fulfill through my role at the hospital and my involvement in various community projects. The district offers opportunities not only for community service, but also educational and social opportunities to grow and advance.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? It's already a good place to learn, work, and grow. It will continue to improve as we witness young leaders from diverse backgrounds partner to foster economic, educational, and cultural development.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Continuing to work with and serve the public through a leadership role in healthcare.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I grew up in a military family, and moved around a lot as a result. As an adult, I'm proud to call the IVCC district home, and I hope to be an asset to its communities. I have a Master of Business Administration and a background in marketing communications. On a personal note, my husband and I became first-time parents with the birth of our son James on September 2nd.



Brian Carnes (1977)

COUNTRY Financial
Financial Representative

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

I have been fortunate enough to experience a 38% annual increase in new clients year after year, but I am most proud of the thousands of dollars in savings that I have been able to provide for my friends and neighbors in the greater Illinois Valley community. It's important to me that local area families have access to quality

insurance and financial protection. Country Financial has allowed me to provide these services.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Ottawa Network of Young Executives (Secretary), Ottawa Area Chamber (member), Ottawa Downtown Merchants (Director), Rotarian, and Ottawa Business Builders (member).

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I stay in the IVCC district because the ethics displayed throughout the local community reflect the moral code that I am trying instill in my children. The greater Illinois Valley area is a wholesome area based on family values and service to community. Educational opportunities abound in the local area and that is important to me. I am proud to be a contributor to the common good and a resident of the IVCC district.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I see great potential for growth over the course of the next 5-10 year period in the IVCC district. Local area businesses have experienced hardship due to the worldwide economic downturn however the lessons of fiduciary responsibility and effective long term planning that this downturn has brought about have not been lost on the IVCC district community. I know from personal experience that local business men and women have learned a lot over the past few years and are poised to take advantage of emerging economic opportunities as our economy cycles toward prosperity in the future. Thanks to the wonderful systems of education that are in place in the IVCC district we will be prepared when opportunities begin to knock.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? In 5-10 years I see myself continuing to work with local families and businesses to facilitate secure financial planning in the local community. I plan to continue community service and charitable practices through whatever avenues provide for the greatest good and I hope to help my two sons get off to a strong start as they enter the world of adulthood and become community contributors themselves.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. Outside of my family, my 2 most notable current commitments include:

* Recognizing outstanding educational performance among Ottawa's high school students. I believe that these students form the foundation of our future and supporting hard work through education is the key to making our future bright.

* Building of relationships between local community groups. Cooperation between local business groups and educational institutions makes our community stronger by synergizing resources. An example of this is the collaboration between ONYX and IVCC which has allowed local business people coordinate networks with students preparing to enter the workforce. This in turn, contributes to the growth of the local economy.



Dr. Brett L. Casanova (1983)

Current place of employment: Casanova Chiropractic
Owner, Doctor of Chiropractic

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

Becoming a doctor by the age of 22 and being inducted into the Legion of Chiropractic Philosophers while in school; receiving the Dr. Virgil V. Strang Philosophy Award and Palmer College of Chiropractic's graduation. After graduating, building my own practice and helping people with their health concerns.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Loyal Legion of Chiropractic Philosophers; Illinois Prairie State Chiropractic Association – 2nd Vice-President; Illinois Palmer Alumni Association; Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce – Member Services Team; Ottawa Network of Young Executives (ONYX) – Membership Chair

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? We came to the Illinois Valley in 2007 in search of a small town, with the kind of homes in which we could have our office. Because of the kind of work I do, it took a bit of research to determine a location that would be suitable both professionally and personally. In Ottawa, I found the ideal place to grow my practice and my life.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? When I think of this area, my focus is always on reaching as many patients as possible, to teach them about what Chiropractic is and how it can improve the quality of their lives. So thinking of the future to me means meeting more people, helping more people, and getting better at what I do.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Doing what I'm doing now, only bigger and better.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. My dad was a Chiropractor for over 50 years and I grew up in his office which inspired me to become a Chiropractor. Also, my mom and I went to Chiropractic college at the same time and now practice together. Becoming a Doctor at such a young age, by necessity, I have had to stay extremely focused on my profession. As time goes by, I look forward to enjoying this area and all it has to offer.



Jason Cavanaugh (1972)

Jeff Perry Buick GMC
Sale Consultant

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

Part of the International Installation/Training Team for Reliable Office Supply and Employee of the Year

List the professional and personal organizations that you

belong to? Rotary International, Easter Seals LaSalle/Bureau Counties Board Member, Little League Coach

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? Remained here to be close to family and am proud to live in our local area.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? Continued growth of population, industry and dining/entertainment

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? In a leadership role in my current industry, automotive business



Kelley Cawley-Salazar (1976)

Kelley Cawley Boutique

President of Kelley Cawley Boutique, Inc.

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? I feel so blessed that I was actually able to pursue my dream of owning and operating my own business. I have met so many great people along the way and I love what I do!

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to?

LaSalle Business Association

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I am from the area and I choose to open my business locally because I want to be a part of the growth in our community.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I hope to see the area still have that small town feel yet with continued growth.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Continuing to balance raising a family as well as pursuing expanding Kelley Cawley Boutique, Inc.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I feel honored to be recognized by the Illinois Small Business Development Center. When you start your own business it is comforting to have people who believe in you along the way! Special thanks to my husband, family, Jay Baxter and the ISBDC for believing in me and encouraging me.



Gina Czubachowski (1983)

Small Business Development Center at IVCC
Business Specialist

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? Being elected President of Financial Management Association (FMA) in 2004 and the reorganization which encouraged a membership growth. The association grew from 10 active members to 50 active members. Since 2005, former FMA members have come together to develop a professional alumni association called Illinois State Alumni in Finance (ISAF) with more than 200 members.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Illinois State Alumni in Finance (ISAF), Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I was born and raised in LaSalle. After graduating from Graduate School, I decided I would move back home to be closer to my family and friends. In April 2011, I interviewed for the Business Specialist position and was offered the position. As a Business Specialist I have enjoyed working with my coworkers and I enjoy meeting local entrepreneurs and business owners throughout the IVCC district. The Business Specialist position is an enjoyable position because you are continuously learning and meeting new people.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I believe the Illinois Valley will be home to many small businesses. Since job creation has been slow during the last couple of years, people will get tired of looking for a job and they will start their own business.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? I will be working and living in the area. I will continue expanding my financial knowledge and helping to educate students and residents about personal finance. In addition, I will continue helping small business owners and I will be a Certified Financial Planner candidate.



Spencer & Annette Davis (1975)

A Hundred Acres Orchard and Market
Owners

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? Taking a struggling business and turning it into a successful business for families to come and enjoy the day.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Princeton Chamber and NFIB

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? It was an existing business already in the IVCC district.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? We hope to see the Ag Tourism grow in our area.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Remembering the sleepless nights we had the first few years of business and now getting to enjoy the success that those sleepless nights gave us. Enjoying seeing families come to our orchard to spend the day and create great memories. Also seeing what a great idea is was to add our banquet facility and outdoor wedding area.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. We are proud parents for 5 children and our focus has always been on family. We have built a business that incorporates our whole family in our daily operations. Besides getting to work as a family together we also get to see families come and enjoy our orchard.

Attached is a picture of our family on our 24 ft. blow up slide that we have for the children to play on at the orchard.



Jeffrey Ellis (1973)

Citizens First National Bank
Vice President - Commercial Banking

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

I believe my greatest professional accomplishment is that, every day, I am able to partner with business owners to offer them the financial services their businesses require in order to grow and prosper. By providing them with the capital they need I am able to assist them in bringing their vision to life and, in turn, help them to create jobs for others.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Princeton Rotary Club, Horizon House, St. Louis Catholic School - Commission on Education, City of Princeton - Industrial Planning Commission, City of Princeton - Revolving Loan Fund Committee, Princeton Youth Soccer League - Coach

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? We originally moved to the Illinois Valley to be closer to family. Peru is my wife's hometown, and that is what brought us here. Over the years, we have remained in the greater Illinois Valley area, specifically Princeton, because it is a fantastic place to raise a family and we love the small-town feel of the close knit community.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? In the future, I believe the greater Illinois Valley area will continue to be a great place to live and raise a family. However, the continued economic success of the area will be dependent upon our ability create and retain local jobs. Ideally this will be done through the combination of growth in small businesses, as well as through attracting new, larger employers to the area.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? In the coming years I plan to remain in the greater Illinois Valley area, doing many of the same things I am doing today - helping local businesses, small and large, create and retain jobs. Hopefully I will have the opportunity to take on additional responsibilities within my organization, however, I hope to always hold a position which allows me to maintain a great deal of direct customer contact.



Michael Ellis (1979)

Ellis Ace Hardware, Rental & RadioShack
Manager

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? Re-development of our store business model and developing a plan to better manage our inventory which resulted in adding a RadioShack inside our store which has added significant foot traffic. Part of that partnership included wireless phone service, and with our sales in AT&T we were able to become a pilot RadioShack Dealer to sell the Apple iPhone. We were chosen from 1700 stores nationwide. As a result of those sales we were also able to be launch location for the new Apple iPhone 4S and were the only store in our district to be a launch location. Re-evaluating the inventory and categories in our store led to a large sales increase to our business and allowed us to free up capitol from underperforming departments and merchandise to re-invest in what our customers want and need from our store. Helping to perpetuate our store culture of being the most helpful store on the planet has also been one of my largest implementations in the store.

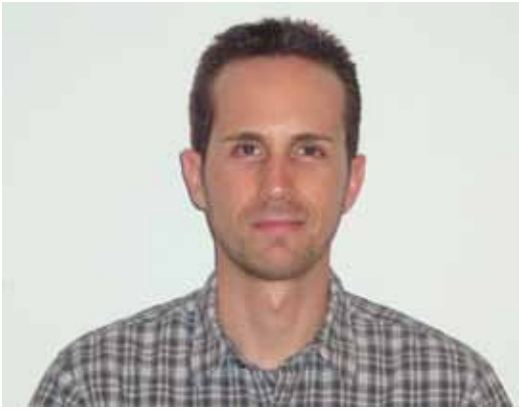
List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Seneca Planning Commission (2008-2009); Seneca Business Association (2008-present); Illinois River Area Chamber of Commerce (2007-2009); Seneca Festival Commission (2007-present); Seneca Development Organization (2008-present); Illinois Canal Corridor Association (2010-present); LaSalle County Toursim Coalition; United States Census 2010 Complete Count Committee

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? Being the 5th generation of our family business, I planned to use my college degree from Illinois State and apply for a job in the field of journalism. Once I came back to the store, I fell in love with retail and the community again and made the decision to stay where I grew up and continue the legacy of our rich hardware store history.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? To be thriving, growing, and looking for new opportunities to be the best it can be for those that live, work, and play in the district.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? I hope to continue to work toward taking over the store after my father and uncle, I would like to have multiple retail locations in both the hardware industry and other retail ventures outside of hardware also.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. Applying for and receiving the Illinois Historical Society Centennial Award for continuously owning our store for over 100 years and making us "Illinois' Oldest Family Owned Hardware Store". I have attached my vita that the Village Clerk requested from me a while ago and I updated it.



Nick Fascetta (1979)

The Auto Inspector Inc.
Owner / President

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? My greatest professional accomplishment has been the entire creation of this business. From the logo, website, the services we offer and who they are geared toward.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? The professional and personal organizations I belong to are: Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Tinley Park Chamber of Commerce; Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce; Chicago Southland Chamber of Commerce; ONYX (Ottawa Network of Young eXecs); Business Builders Too (Leads group in Ottawa)

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I decided to stay in the IVCC area because it's a great area to raise my three children.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? In the next 5-10 years I envision the IVCC district to grow at a very controlled pace. But none the less GROW. The business in this area will continue to do so through good old fashioned networking. Not only that but businesses doing business within our community. Also keep a look out for some pretty creative and different businesses coming to town.



Richard Fiocchi, Jr. (1982)

Fiocchi Funeral Homes, Princeton and Cherry
Owner / Funeral Director

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? Helping families get through the grief process.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Cherry.
Ladd Moose Lodge.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? Born and raised in Ladd, I had gone to IVCC for my associates degree and met many professional contacts for my career. Combined with my family and friends, I felt comfortable within the community. I saw the Illinois Valley as a growing area suitable for both established and emerging businesses to flourish.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? A growing community college, new businesses moving to the area, and old businesses expanding. More young people investing in our community to create a district that attracts both families and entrepreneurs.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Professionally, I would like to continue expanding while still offering familiar, intimate services to families. Personally, I hope to start my own family to carry on the tradition of the community-oriented Illinois Valley.



Jacob Frost (1980)

Wimbiscus Law Firm, P.C.
Attorney & Counselor at Law

Jacob J. Frost, a Princeton native and graduate of Illinois Valley Community College, summa cum laude, returned to the Illinois Valley to serve the community as an attorney subsequent to graduating from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2006. Since 2009 he has been with Wimbiscus Law Firm, P.C. in Spring Valley. He resides with his wife and one-year-old daughter in La Salle.

Jacob practices in the areas of creditor's rights, trusts/estates, municipal law and commercial/residential transactions and can regularly be seen in the La Salle, Bureau and Putnam County courthouses advocating for his clients.

Since 2007, he has been re-appointed each year as one of only forty attorneys throughout the entire state by the President of the Illinois State Bar Association to serve on the Trusts & Estates Section Council. The Council is responsible for activities relating to the education of probate, estate planning and trust law practitioners, as well as for studying and recommending solutions to various problems involving the public, the courts and attorneys in those areas of the law. In 2011, Jacob was appointed to serve as a co-editor of the Trusts & Estates Section newsletter, a monthly publication designed to educate Illinois attorneys which evaluates current legal developments in estate, trust and probate practice. In that capacity, Jacob enjoys examining new and complex questions ranging from estate taxation to Will contests.

He has been a frequent lecturer for the People's Law School seminars sponsored by the Illinois State Bar Association and the La Salle County Bar Association, speaking on topics ranging from real estate taxation, wills and trusts and starting a business. In addition, he currently represents a number of clients concerning certain matters on a pro bono basis, including the Village of DePue.

The preamble to the Illinois Rules of Professional Conduct states that, "[l]awyers are the trustees of the system by which citizens resolve disputes among themselves and determine their relative rights and responsibilities toward each other and their government." At just 31 years old, Jacob has consistently demonstrated a commitment to public service in the law, taking the Illinois Supreme Court's admonition that "the practice of law is a public trust" to heart.



Vince Gatzza (1974)

Gatza Electrical Contracting, Inc.
President/Owner

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? Starting my own electrical contracting company after working in the trade for 18 years and watching it grow.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? IBEW Local #176

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I was born and raised in the Peru area. And, I am centrally located or within an hours drive to major cities such as Chicago, Moline, and Bloomington.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I see it growing and I expect it to grow more and more. For my business, I expect my reputation to get out there and more companies having a need for my expertise.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? I see myself managing a successful electrical contracting company with more than one employee; and, expanding the territory that I cover and work in.



Sarah Glascock (1980)

Illinois Valley Community College
Higher Education

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? My greatest professional accomplishment is working with students and watching them take their passion and turn it into their future.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? National Association of Student Personnel Administrators; National Association of Campus Activities; National Orientation

Directors Association; Waterloo (IA) Center for the Arts Friends of the Center (Secretary and Treasurer); Project Lead—Waverly (IA) Chamber of Commerce

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I came to the IVCC district recently to be closer to family and my fiancé and continue working in higher education

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? In the next 5-10 years, I see areas of growth in industry and also this region still being a leader in agriculture. I also see opportunity for development in our local tourism industry. The Illinois Valley has a great deal of scenic beauty that is enjoyed by many throughout the state and the Midwest!

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Still working in higher education and involved in different community organizations



Mark Grzybowski (1981)

Illinois Valley Community College
Director of Admissions & Records

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? My greatest professional accomplishment occurred in February 2011 when I interviewed for and was selected to replace Tracy Morris as the next Director of Admissions & Records at IVCC. To be able to serve and help previous, current, and prospective students in a far greater capacity than I had previously been able to has been so utterly fulfilling and rewarding. A close second has to be serving as

Co-Coordinator for the Annual IVCC Career Expo, a day where nearly 1000 elementary and High School students get a taste of various career paths.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Volunteer at Illinois Valley PADS; Member of annual Chicagoland Donate Life Liver Walk Team; Treasurer for LaSalle Park & Recreation Commission; Member of the Marquette University Alumni Association; Member of Illinois Association of Collegiate Registrars & Admissions Officers; Member of Illinois Community College Admissions & Records Officers Organization.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? No matter where I was living, the Illinois Valley had always been home. Having been born and raised in LaSalle, returning home to family and friends had always been my number one personal and professional goal. After completing Graduate School in 2007 and looking to return to the Illinois Valley, I interviewed for the Dual Credit Coordinator position at IVCC and was fortunate enough to be selected as the candidate to fill the position. I graciously accepted the offer and since then have thoroughly enjoyed and valued every day at the college.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? In the next 5-10 years I feel as though there will be a great amount of growth within the IVCC district and subsequently an increased need for potential job seekers to prepare for the future and to diversify themselves. The need for highly skilled and trained employees is as imminent as it is essential due to the pending retirement of the Baby Boom generation. In that light, I feel as though educating and preparing the future workforce is an immediate priority not only for students themselves but also for our local communities and industries.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? In the next 5-10 years I see myself being more active both in the community and professionally at IVCC. In my current position, I learn something new with each and every workday and that's half the fun. The thing I look most forward to is being able to help students meet their personal and professional goals and assist with the realization of their lifelong dreams. Those moments, along with being able to work with such great coworkers at IVCC on a daily basis, are reasons why I consider myself very fortunate to do what I do.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I have recently moved to Peru with my wonderful wife of 3 years, Liz, and our two dogs Maggie and Lilly. Being a devout fan of the Chicago Cubs, I tend to approach everything with a "Glass Half Full" attitude and with the eternal hope that next year is THE year. It is with that idea that I like to live each day to the fullest and to have fun while I'm at it.



AJ Hauser (1984)

Hauser Design Group | www.hauserdesigngroup.com
Owner

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? Somehow managing to keep the lights on - and actually gain several key clients - throughout this double dip recession... or depression, or whatever the heck we're calling it this month.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Ottawa Noon Rotary | Ottawa Business Builders | ONYX | Ottawa Chamber of Commerce

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I love the location (I'm not much of a city person) and it keeps me close to family.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I am very impressed with all of the options, opportunities and groups available to small and medium businesses in this area. I think that if we continue to cultivate local talent and support local businesses, we will start to see some much better employment numbers.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? In my field I have learned that plans need to be very open to adaptation. 5 years ago I would have laughed at the idea of selling goods to smartphone users via mobile websites - but I would like to build a new location and have a handful of employees, ranging from office managers to skilled designers and maybe a programmer or two.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I am looking to hire on a part-time employee or sub-contractor for a few web video projects coming up. If we see a reasonable amount of profit this may very well turn into a full time position. If anyone knows an individual skilled at both shooting and editing video - please have them contact me.



Gregory S. Hoffman (1972)

Exposure Salon & Day Spa
President & Stylist

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? Opening my own salon.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? I am active in LPAC, the LaSalle Promotion and Advisory Council, and in the beautify

downtown goal for the LaSalle MAPPING committee.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I returned to the area after 6 years to be closer family, but also wanted to be in an area that has a lot of potential for growth.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I have no doubt that our area will experience a lot of growth. We have many dedicated people wanting to make our area even better, promoting the arts, nature and business.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Still in the area, with an even more successful business.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I recently opened a children's salon and boutique, Little Fashion Ave. in La Salle.



Brianne Hougas (1982)

Ottawa Regional Hospital & Healthcare Center
Marketing Communications Specialist

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

My greatest accomplishment has definitely been being the founding president of ONYX. It gave me the opportunity to guide Ottawa's young professionals' group from the very beginning and try to mold it into what I consider a successful and beneficial organization.

List the professional and personal organizations that you

belong to? ONYX (Ottawa Network of Young eXecs), Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Illinois Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations, American Legion Auxiliary; 2011 United Way Campaign Cabinet / Professional Division

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I was born and raised within the IVCC district, but I moved away for my first job out of college. I returned home again the first chance I had to find a job in my field. I enjoy being close to friends and family. Plus I'm a big supporter of trying to get local talent to stay local. It's all about job opportunities and the hope to expand them so our youth can take advantage of and contribute to our local economy.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I envision the district as thriving. The benefits of adding the Ottawa facility are already evident, and I think that success will continue. I also see young professionals taking more initiative in starting small businesses and trying to recruit and retain career and job potential for the area.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? I see myself at the same organization, possibly in a different position. I feel "at home" for the first time within my career. I know that my current position suits my strengths and my interests. If given the opportunity to move up in the organization, I'll certainly pursue it. Leaving behind a great marketing position, however, would definitely be bittersweet.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. Nothing else to note... just honored to be nominated/considered for this opportunity!



Andrew Hurst (1986)

Hurst Funeral Homes
Funeral Director

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? I am active in LaSalle Rotary and Kiwanis.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I returned to the area after finishing college in Chicago to work for my father at his funeral homes.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? In 5-10 years I see the IVCC district better off than it is now. I think in 2 years the economy will pick up. Our leaders will start agreeing on job plans and this area's unemployment rate will drop.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? In 5-10 years I see myself working for my father still and maybe have a kid or two. Although not in any hurry.



Dana Jennings (1979)

Rainbow International Restoration and Cleaning (Water/Fire/Smoke/Mold Remediation and Restoration)
Owner/Operations Manager

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? Earning Service Professional of the Year for Rainbow 2007 (an award given to one person out of all Rainbow International Franchises) and Top Gun Award for being in the top 10% sales volume of all Rainbow Franchises in 2010.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Institute of Inspection Cleaning and Restoration

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I returned to the IVCC district after serving 4 years in the Marine Corps to follow my dream of becoming an entrepreneur.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I envision the IVCC district to be full of young entrepreneurs in 5-10 years due to the current economic situation. The job market in general is not healthy and people are realizing their potential by starting up on their own.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? In 5-10 years I see myself either opening a second location or opening another business in this district in a different industry.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. All my accomplishments would not be possible without the support of my wife who always challenges me to do bigger and better things and also stands by my side for support no matter what problem I am dealing with or no matter what I am trying to accomplish.



Kelly Klobucher (1972)

Hegeler Carus Foundation
Executive Director

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

I really don't know what to say here. I think it is yet to come!

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to?

Hegeler Carus Foundation, Executive Director;
Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau-Board Chair
2009-present; Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway-Board

Member 2010-present; The 2140 Club-Vice President 2010-2011; La Salle Business Association-Board Member 2010-present; La Salle Planning Committee-2010-present; La Salle Steering Committee-2010-present; La Salle County Tourism Coalition-Board Member 2010 present; Peru Rotary- Club President 2009-2010; Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development-Chamber Ambassador 2006-2011; La Salle-Peru Township High School Foundation for Educational Enrichment-Board Member 2009-present; Illinois Valley Women's Club-Publicity Chair 2009; Alzheimer's Association-Chair-Illinois Valley Memory Walk 2006-2011; Lion's Club-Publicity Chair 2006-2009; Young Leader's Forum 2009-2010

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I missed my hometown and my family after living in Chicago for 10 years. I decided that if I moved back here I had to be involved in the community to try to help make it a better place. The Illinois Valley has so many wonderful assets. It's beautiful here and the people are wonderful.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I hope different towns will collaborate for the good of the whole area.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? I am here to stay! I plan to continue being involved in local business and non-profit organizations.



Douglas C. Kramarsic (1981)

Kramarsic Law Offices, LLC
Attorney / Owner

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? It's difficult to pick one specific accomplishment from my years as an Assistant State's Attorney and as a private practitioner, but I would have to say that it's maintaining a fantastic family life while practicing law. Attorneys often deal with people who are going through a very rough time, or have had some type of tragic event that has occurred in their life; being able to manage a great professional and family life

is an accomplishment that I am truly proud of.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Illinois Valley Area Chamber of Commerce; Illinois State Bar Association; LaSalle County Bar Association; Oglesby School District 125 – Board Member; Attorney's Title Guaranty Fund

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? After law school, my wife and I decided to back to the IVCC area because we felt that this was the perfect place for us to live and start our family. We both have numerous family and friends who still live in the area, and are proud to tell others that we area from the IVCC area.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? In 5-10 years I envision the IVCC district as being one of the most technologically advanced districts in Illinois. This due in part to the new IVCC Community Technology Center being able to provide advanced manufacturing and alternative energy training to all residents of central and northern Illinois. This alone is a great opportunity for the residents and also for current and future businesses looking for a workforce that has the required training needed to carry out the jobs of the 21st century.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? In 5-10 years I see myself right here in the Illinois Valley continuing my successful law practice and assisting the residents of our district in any way that I can. It's a great feeling being a local lawyer and maintaining lifelong relationships with all of my clients.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. The IVCC area is home to many great young business leaders and entrepreneurs, but the legal industry in our area has really suffered in its ability to bring younger, more aggressive, and open minded attorneys to the area. This has been one of the main driving forces for me; to offer the residents of the IVCC area an attorney who has more interest in successfully assisting his client than anything else.



Chad Maze Kreofsky (1982)

W.H. Maze Company, Maze Lumber Division
Owner/Showroom Manager/Purchasing

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

Implementing an entirely new POS system and complete showroom redesign at Lumberyard

List the professional and personal organizations that you

belong to? Red Cross Board of Directors, Junior Achievement Board of Directors, Sunrise Rotary Club Board of Directors, American

Alpine Club, Upper Midwest Blacksmiths Association, North American Blacksmith Association, Northern Illinois Bee Keepers association,

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? From Minnesota originally and moved here after college to work for the family business.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? Hopefully full of more young professionals and service minded individuals.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Sales or Production Supervisor at Maze Nails

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. My mom grew up in Peru (Roelif Lovelands older and smarter sister) and moved to Minnesota after college to teach. I grew up in Minnesota and moved to Peru after college with a degree in Political Science, International Relations and Communication Studies from Cornell College. Five years ago, my parents sold their company in Minnesota and moved back here to Spring Valley along with both of my younger brothers.



Drew McConville (1985)

Illinois Valley Community College
Research Analyst

Freelance Designer

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

In September 2009, I had the opportunity to design and create a full-page advertisement in the New York Times urging President Obama to support a public health insurance option. Nearly 5,000 people contributed \$163,000 to run the ad on the day of President

Obama's speech to Congress regarding health insurance reform. The ad was mentioned in many national news articles and was even featured on MSNBC. In 2010, the ad was recognized with a Pollie Award from the American Association of Political Consultants.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Progressive Change Campaign Committee – Steering Committee Member; Boston Election Department – Election Day Clerk; Contributing Member to WNIJ – Northern Illinois Public Radio; Suffolk University Alumni Association

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? After spending 3 years studying and working in Boston, I was eager to return to the Illinois Valley. Being close to my wife, family, and friends was the driving force behind my decision to return to the area – they're the one thing that is not transferable between regions.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? Over the next decade, I hope leaders in the Illinois Valley will look to further embrace the natural resources we have to provide residents. There is a large focus on bringing jobs to the area that will attract and retain younger adults; however, it is sometimes overlooked that this demographic seeks more than just jobs when deciding where to settle down. People don't just need to work here, they need to live and play too. A good way for leaders to show they understand this would be opening the towpath between Ottawa and Utica.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Experience has shown that nothing ever goes the way you planned so I'll make this as broad as possible: Over the next five to ten years I hope to start a family, possibly start a business, and become more civically involved in the Illinois Valley.



John McCormick (1974)

Hometown National Bank
Senior Vice President

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

Helping local businesses and people grow and accomplish their dreams and goals

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to?

Illinois Valley Sunrise Rotary (Past President), IVAC (Past Board Member and Past President), Horizon House (Past Capital Campaign Chair), Grace United Methodist Church, Peru Elementary School Foundation, Junior Achievement, St. Margaret's Finance Committee.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? Growing up in the area, I received a lot of support and encouragement from family, friends, and organizations. I was given an opportunity to work in the district after college and felt it was an excellent area to grow professionally and raise a family. It also allows me the fortune of giving back to some of the same people and organizations that helped shape my life.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I see the IVCC district continuing to grow by utilizing local resources and working diligently to nurture, retain, and grow local businesses to bring jobs and prosperity to the district. I see a streamlined, regional approach to promoting the district and all of its benefits.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Continuing to encourage and support local businesses and people to enhance the area for my children's generation, so they may also realize how fortunate they are to have the resources and values the Illinois Valley provides.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I have been married to my wonderful wife, Holly for more than 12 years and we are the proud parents of four children; Grace, Creed, Reason, and Ever.



Neil Pleskovitch (1972)

Luscious Moi Salon

Owner / Manager

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? My greatest professional accomplishment has been: Being able to continue to grow in this downturned economy and with little employee loyalty. Also, being able to find the balance of living and working in my hometown after more than a decade living in Chicago.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? I belong to the LBA and donate my time to many fund raisers including: Dancing With the Stars, The Chefs Auction, St. Bede Academy, Howard Brown to name a few.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I returned as a result of Sept. 11 and realized the importance of family also seeing a very affordable downtown with much potential.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? In 5/10 years, I see the area having much potential if steered carefully by the right people. I am a firm believer in a historic downtown plan, rather than a hodgepodge of people and ideas.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? In 5/10, I see myself with possibly another business in an area of personal interest. Perhaps a restaurant, gastro-pub etc. I would like to be involved in the beautification of downtown LaSalle as I think it needs a clear vision and I have talents and connections to people who could help me and the city.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I am honored to be nominated for this award..



Dave Rabideau (1974)

Noah's Ark Carpentry
Owner

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? The purchase of a down town 1888 Queen Ann commercial building. The building was vacant and now has three thriving businesses and

three apartments. The city has turned this eyesore into its poster child and has started a revitalization movement in our community. This one accomplishment has led to the purchase of two more historic buildings.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Ottawa noon Rotary, Ottawa historic preservation commission, Ottawa dog park commission, Elks Lodge, University of Illinois extension board, Easter seals board, Reddick Mansion Board, Ottawa area Chamber of Commerce and Industry member and Heritage Corridor supporting partner.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? Neither. I was transplanted here from the south suburbs of Chicago.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? I plan to continue volunteering in my community, operating my construction company, living better and thinking about a vacation.



Troy Resetich (1982)

TROY simplified technologies (TST)
Owner

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? Owning a viable start-up in the midst of the worst recession since the 30's.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to. Rotary; 2140; Ducks Unlimited; Institute of Electronic and Electrical Engineers. Through TST, I participate in IVAC, the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce, and the Illinois Logistics Council.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? The network of people I knew allowed for a business start-up. In addition, I grew up here and even though I did spend several years outside of Illinois, this was and will always be home.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? There are a great many positive variables that didn't exist 10 years ago. Local business and public school systems are making great strides in fostering entrepreneurship. It is my belief that it will be a large number of small manufacturers, assembly houses, and service businesses that drive economic growth in this area.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Geographically I am sure this area will continue to be a large part of my life. Professionally, it is difficult to predict. Certainly there are professional and financial goals, but more importantly I hope my company's efforts continue to create good jobs for the area.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I am the third generation in my family to own a technology company. This tradition started in 1949.



Mike Richetta (1972)

Chamlin & Associates, Inc.

Designer and Professional Land Surveyor

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

Being able to accept challenges and adapt to a constantly changing business environment. While not career related, I am proud that I was elected to serve on the City Council in Spring Valley as an Alderman. I have learned so much by accepting this challenge and enjoy the time and energy it requires.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to?

Illinois Professional Land Surveying Association, Spring Valley Boosters, Thunderbird BASS Club and the Spring Valley Walleye Club.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? After living in various locations in the Midwest, the Illinois Valley seemed to fit my wish list of living conditions. Good employment opportunities, small town living with easy access to major cities and great people that quickly became friends.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I expect the Illinois Valley as a whole will continue to expand and offer more, and better, employment and recreational opportunities.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Early in 2011 I was offered and accepted a position at Chamlin & Associates. After 19 years of working at Etscheid, Duttlinger & Associates, in Ottawa, I am ready to take on new challenges and look forward to advancing my career at Chamlin & Associates. You can't always plan for change, but I expect to remain in the area.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I moved to the Illinois Valley in 1990, my wife, Melissa was born and raised in Spring Valley. We celebrated our 15 year anniversary this year and have 2 children, Maggie (5) and Steven (1).



Charles Riva (1979)

VA Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Peru.
Physical Therapist

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? Helping to establish a new physical therapy center for Veterans in the Illinois Valley.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to?
Licensed Physical Therapist in Illinois.

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? Good area to raise a family; enjoyed my childhood here; a need for Physical Therapists in the Illinois Valley.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? A family-friendly community with continued economic growth.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? A Physical Therapist in the Illinois Valley with more of a mentoring role.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I'm proud to have a career in my hometown serving the Veterans who bravely served us.



Meg Skelly (1976)

Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Assistant Executive Director

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment? Helping others to benefit themselves.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Rotary Club of Ottawa; Rainbow Council, Boy Scouts of America; Easter Seals of LaSalle & Bureau Counties Board of Directors; Ottawa Network of Young eXecutives (ONYX); Ottawa Dog Park Board; IL Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I am a transplant; my husband and I moved here for a previous job requirement. Why have we stayed? Because we love the natural beauty, the quality of life, the community and the friends we have made here.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? I see the IVCC district very much like it is now. Right now, the most important we can do is retain what we have.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? I see myself right where I am, at the Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce. I enjoy what I do and I look forward to continuing my career at the Chamber.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. My husband and I live on the South side of Ottawa with our fur-kids, two Chocolate Labrador Retrievers.



Donald Trager (1972)

Farmer/Subway Franchise Owner

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

When I took a chance to pursue being self-employed

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? LaSalle County Farm Bureau member Supporter of local high school and recreational athletics Subway Franchise Group

Why did you decide to stay/return to the IVCC district? To continue with the family farm operation

In 5-10 years, where do you see the IVCC district? Continued growth in agriculture combined with advances in technology and sustainability

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? With the right opportunities, expanding the farm operation and Subway restaurants

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. With hard work and determination , you can be successful



Dr. Michelle Vasquez (1981)

IVCH

Family Medicine Physician

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

Well, considering I'm a new physician with less than 1 year in practice, I guess I'd say getting to where I'm at now. Starting and raising a family during residency, and then starting up a new medical office and practicing on my own have been very big challenges and accomplishments for me.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? American Academy of Family Physicians, Illinois Academy of Family Physicians, Illinois State Medical Society

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? My family, especially my children. I wanted them to be close to our extended family, especially their Grandmas and Grandpa. I also think the IV area is a great place to raise a family, and I think my boys will enjoy growing up here just as much as I did.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? Not quite sure, but hopefully continuing to grow and prosper.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? In the same community enjoying life with my family and watching my boys grow up, and hopefully in just as successful as a medical practice as I'm working to building now.



Luke Weiden (1982)

Town & Country Services
Vice President

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment?

Bringing Town & Country Services from an average company in 2008 to being listed on INC. 500/5000 list for the fastest growing companies in America. Being #3836 in 2011.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to? Board member for the United Way of the Illinois Valley,

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I returned to the IVCC district in 2008, after working in Chicago for 5 years. I returned to help expand Town & Country Services market share in the IVCC district, and pursue other business opportunities in the contracting industries.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? In 5-10 years I see the IVCC district as a major economic hub for North Central Illinois.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? In 5-10 years I see myself operating Town & Country Services in multiple markets such as the Bloomington-normal, and Peoria areas as well as a continued strong presence in the IVCC district. I also, see myself starting other small businesses in other industries in the area.



Amada Whitlock (1982)

NewsTribune

Photo Editor

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment ? Working with the great and award winning photo staff at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch during an internship.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to. Hegeler Carus Foundation, ASPCA, The Humane Society of the United States, The Audubon Society, National Parks Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Sierra Club, National Public Radio, and the World Wildlife Foundation

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? I am not from here. I am originally from Rantoul, Illinois, which is little over an hour away from the Illinois Valley. I returned to central Illinois because my dad had cancer and I was lucky enough to find a career close to home. My dad is fine, he has beat cancer twice now in my lifetime.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? Hopefully the downtown areas will flourish with many local businesses and the old buildings will be renovated. There's a lot of history here and we need to preserve and protect it.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? Journalism is an unsteady environment. I hope to be doing great things wherever I may land.

List anything else that you think is important or interesting to note. I graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 2005 with a BS in Journalism and BA in English. After my internship in St. Louis in 2006 it was hard to find a career in journalism so I worked for the Humane Society, an organization I believe strongly in, for nearly 3 years. Eventually I made my way back to journalism however if I wasn't a photojournalist I would return to school to become a veterinarian.



Scott Wollack (1981)

Tee Group Films
Development Manager

What has been your greatest professional accomplishment ? While I can think of several accomplishments that have garnered more attention and were more successful, on a more personal level my greatest professional accomplishment was my first cold sales call. The meeting was with a potential customer

on the west coast which other sales people refused to call on. After that meeting I had more confidence and it became a stepping stone onto bigger things.

List the professional and personal organizations that you belong to. 2140 Club; Rotary (on Sabbatical for 2011); ASTM; NCSPA

Why did you stay or return to the IVCC district? The area is a great place to start a family. If you take the time to look around we have natural beauty, fine arts, and not a bad social scene. The area is also excellent for people starting their own business from scratch, it is a good incubator with easy access to people willing to help.

In 5-10 years, how do you envision the IVCC district? The district has so much potential. I envision that it could one day be a Boulder CO or Spartanburg SC which attracts young professionals. I see more and more people working to get us there and they are making progress. Spartanburg made it happen in ten years, so can we.

In 5-10 years, where do you see yourself? In 5 years I plan to own my own company. Perhaps a manufacturing facility or an independent laboratory.