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The Chat

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SARAH BURGERT

Burgert is the community resource development educator for Green County University of Wisconsin-Extension. She is one of the coordinators of Thursday's Green County Young Professionals dinner at Blackhawk Technical College.

What went into planning for tomorrow's event?

Dean (Chris) Wellington from BTC asked us to start arranging something, and it was an idea we (Burgert and Lori Rodefeld of BTC) had been thinking about. In January, we got some other people to help, and we had to decide what the purpose was of bringing young professionals together. One challenge we did have was that BTC and UW-Extension didn't have a budget for this, so how could we create an event that would be fun and engaging with no money? How do we go about recognizing young professionals in our community?

Has there been any feedback from young professionals?

We have about 40 people signed up, and registrations are still coming in. That's positive feedback. We also had 11 nominees for our Young Professional of the Year award, which is fantastic, especially since this is our first year doing the award.

What are you hoping to get out of the event?

There are three principle goals. The first is to get

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young professionals, who would otherwise not meet each other, to do so. Second, we wanted to recognize young professionals for all they do. Third, we wanted some dialogue, some momentum to do something for the future of the community that these young professionals would want to be a part of.

What can young professionals do to improve their community?

Young professionals need to be aware of the issues in their community. They need to know about them and weigh in on those issues. Otherwise, decisions are going to be made that affect their community without their input.

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