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SunGazette



Leadership
Arlington

Honoring the Washington Region's Rising Business and Community Leaders

Leadership Arlington's 1st '40 Under 40' Debuts



The inaugural group of "40 Under 40" recipients poses after the awards ceremony at Army Navy Country Club. The awards were sponsored by Leadership Arlington. PHOTO BY DEB KOLT

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Staff Writer

What has 80 legs, has been around for a little shy of 1,600 years, and represents the next generation of civic leadership in the community?

The answer was found Dec. 4 in the main ballroom of Army Navy Country Club, as Leadership Arlington celebrated its inaugural "40 Under 40" contingent.

As the name suggests, the awards honored 40 local leaders who have made their mark before reaching the age of 40. They were lauded by Leadership Arlington CEO Betsy Frantz as "trailblazers within your generation – devoted leaders committed to making our community a better place."

More than 230 nominations were received for the inaugural awards, which were patterned after a similar effort in Loudoun County sponsored by Northern Virginia Media Services, parent of the Sun Gazette.

"We believe it's very important to support and recognize the up-and-coming leaders in our community," said Bruce Potter, chief operating officer of Northern Virginia Media Services. "It's great to see such a huge turnout."

Joining as supporting partners, in addition to the media company, were the Arlington Community Foundation, Arlington Economic Development and the Arlington Chamber of Commerce.

Award recipients were honored for their professional accomplishments, civic engagement or a combination of both.

"It's a big deal," said Kevin Reynolds, regional president of Cardinal Bank. "What we're seeing . . . is you can make a difference. The impact of one impacts us all."

The event was not just a chance to honor the impact of young leaders, but to have them meet each other and to "equip them with the tools to continue leading our region," said Pinkie Mayfield, vice president of corporate affairs and special assistant to the chairman of Graham Holdings, which recently relocated its corporate offices to Arlington.

It would not have been a Leadership Arlington event if there were not a civic-themed homework assignment involved.

"With this recognition comes responsibility," said Frantz, who urged the first group of recipients to take the lead in establishing "40 Under 40" as an annual "anchor" event in the civic life of Arlington.

The inaugural "40 Under 40" recipients include Salim Adofo, National Black United Front; Nyambo Anuluoha, Arlington Community Federal Credit Union; John Ayers, REDLattice Inc.; Mike Barnes, self-employed; Sindy Benavides, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC); Katherine Bianco, DC Modern Luxury Magazine; Scott Brodbeck, Local News Now; Ginger Brown, self-employed; Billy Buck Jr., Buck & Associates; Nadia Conyers, Arlington Employment Center, Arlington County government; Jeffrey DiLisi, Virginia Hospital Center; Laura Gamse, Daydream Reels; Erikka Gleckel, Deloitte Consulting LLP; Scott Gold, IBC, a DBS Co.; Nick Gregorios, Avison Young; Chris Hamm, U.S. General Services Administration; Julia Hamm, Solar Electric Power Association; Sarah Hillware, Girls Health Ed.; Paul Holland, Marstel-Day LLC; Jennifer Hovis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Melissa Impastato, Clark Construction Group LLC.

Also, Krysta Jones, office of U.S. Rep. Jim Moran; Elizabeth Jones Valderrama, Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR); Kim Klingler, ASCO; Matthew Kulkin, Squire Patton Boggs LLP; Dania Matos, Latinas Leading Tomorrow; Ann McCarty, Arlington Public Schools; Ron Novak, Segue Technologies; Joseph Petty, Crystal City Business Improvement District; Mike Richardson, Chain Bridge Bank; Kate Roche, Arlington Chamber of Commerce; Andrew Schneider, College of William and Mary Raymond A. Mason School of Business; Kelly Shooshan, The Shooshan Co.; Marcio Silveira, Pavlov Financial Planning; Terron Sims II, Doug Pollard LLC; Paul Singh, Disruption Corp.; Elaine Turville, Accenture Federal Services; Andy VanHorn, The JBG Cos.; Kedrick Whitmore, Venable LLP; and Steven Yates, OPOWER.

SLIDE SHOW: A slide show of photos from the event will be available on the Web site at www.insidenova.com/news/arlington later in the week.