



## For Immediate Release

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### **Chattanooga Chamber, Young Professionals of Chattanooga Announce Member Rosters for 2022-2023 Protégé Cohort and YPC Advisory Board**

**Chattanooga, Tenn.** – The Young Professionals of Chattanooga (YPC) and the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce today announced 2022-2023 membership rosters for both Protégé Chattanooga and the YPC Advisory Board. These diverse groups of early and mid-career professionals represent a variety of industry sectors from across the Chattanooga region including hospitality, legal and financial services, government and nonprofit, public relations, higher-education and more.

A program of YPC, Protégé Chattanooga is an immersive, team-based mentoring initiative in which early-to-midcareer professionals build lifelong networks while learning from local executives and each other. Over the course of nine months, participants connect with their peers and area business and community leaders to develop their professional and civic-engagement potential, as well as build enduring personal and professional connections.

“Protégé aligns with the Chamber’s goal of ensuring Chattanooga remains one of America’s top cities for diverse young talent to live, work and play,” said Toya Moore, Director of Leadership Development for the Chattanooga Chamber of Commerce. “In this region, bringing younger professionals together in such a structured way to learn from established local business and civic leaders is unique to Protégé. These cohorts develop lasting friendships among themselves and form critical connections with their volunteer mentors—positioning them to make a positive impact on Chattanooga for years to come.”

This year’s Protégé cohort consists of 24 early-career leaders from a variety of backgrounds that showcase the professional, geographic, socioeconomic, and demographic diversity found within the greater-Chattanooga region. Candidates admitted to the incoming Class of 2023 include:

- Pedro Avila, Chattanooga Area Food Bank
- Zach Barnes, Amazon
- Ian-Alijah Bey, The Enterprise Center

- Taylor Boman, Signal Centers
- Ben Christie, Creative Discovery Museum
- Nicole Coffey, RaganSmith
- Haille Dinger, Transcard
- Shelby Glover, City of Chattanooga
- Michael Murphy Henderson, Hutcherson & McCullough
- Laura Livermore, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
- Brittany Lockwood, United Way of Greater Chattanooga
- Shunta Mildenerger, Tennessee Valley Authority
- Phil Moody, Platform Science
- Logan Morris, EAB
- Abby Neely, Bellhop Inc.
- Michael Pilcher, The Glascock Company
- Quetta Pipkin, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
- Meredyth Ring, Inovalon
- Bria Sibley, City of Chattanooga
- Rebecca Sosebee, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee
- Lorin Smith, Smart Bank
- Leah Sullivan, Likemind Co.
- Ashley Valencia, La Paz Chattanooga
- William Watson, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

YPC and the Chattanooga Chamber also recently welcomed a new all-volunteer Advisory Board for the Young Professionals of Chattanooga. YPC develops infrastructure, events and programs to foster attraction and retention of the diverse, young talent (ages 21 – 40) needed to promote greater-Chattanooga’s continued growth and economic prosperity. New and returning Board members selected to serve in 2022-2023 include:

- Marissa Bell, Waterhouse Public Relations – 2022-23 Chair
- Summer Moore, American City Business Journals – 2022-23 Chair-Elect
- Kenneth Burke, Text Request – 2022-23 Protégé Committee Chair
- Zac Beker, ZBeker Consulting
- Taylor Buquo, The Sasha Group
- Amanda Fabrizio-Grzesik, Tivoli Theatre Foundation
- Patrick Hanus, Skymouse Studios
- Isa Harper, The Moxy Downtown Chattanooga
- Kodak Hensley, Real Estate Partners
- Austin Jameson, BancorpSouth
- Chaz Johnston, Fresenius Kidney Care
- Jocelyn Loza, Latina Professionals of Chattanooga
- Leigh McCormack, Unum
- Shiloh Mcculley, Avenger logistics
- Julia Milrod, Chattanooga Symphony & Opera
- Kate Murphy, Bridge Innovate
- Angela Onan, Tennessee Valley Authority

- Paulette Salazar, Shaw Industries
- Nouga Zahry, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

### **About Protégé Chattanooga**

Recognizing there are many paths to business and community leadership, Protégé Chattanooga provides its mentees with eight different views of success and leadership – one from each monthly mentor. Over the course of the eight-month program, participants bond with each other, gain valuable insight from established leaders, and develop a better understanding of their own path to success. A maximum of 24 early-to-midcareer leaders participate in Protégé Chattanooga each year, selected through a competitive application and selection process. Applicants are evaluated and selected based on their:

- Sincere commitment, motivation, and interest in serving the Chattanooga community;
- Demonstrated dedication to civic engagement through volunteerism;
- Demonstrated ability and commitment to collaborate within (or across) the two Protégé cohorts;
- Recognized potential for career advancement; and
- Alignment with the diversity of the community through representation of various socioeconomic sectors, professions/expertise, perspectives, ages, cultural or ethnic backgrounds, and Hamilton County geographies.

The [Nominations/Applications](#) window for the Protégé Class of 2023-2024 will reopen March 1 – 31, 2023.

### **About the Young Professionals of Chattanooga (YPC)**

A program of the Chattanooga Area Chamber of Commerce, the Young Professionals of Chattanooga develops the infrastructure and programs for diverse, young talent (ages 21-40) to find inspiration, impact the community, promote networking, advocate for their passions, and deepen their community connections. YPC supports efforts that: promote networking, deepen connections, and build community among young professionals; improve professional development opportunities for Chattanooga's early-to-midcareer workforce; recognize younger talent for their contributions and accomplishments; and showcase Chattanooga as a dynamic community for young professionals. The Chamber and YPC annually solicit applications from young professionals to serve on the YPC Advisory Board during the first quarter of each calendar year, with a final deadline of May 31.