

## Graduating Class XVI

**2017-18**



**Cody Banks**  
City of Waupaca  
Water Treatment

### **Brief Bio:**

Raised in northern Wisconsin, then having spent five years in the Wyoming sun, Cody settled down in the fields and waters of Waupaca County. Between working for the City of Waupaca, fixing up an old homestead, and starting from scratch on raising a kiddo, his next 20 years are pretty well spoken for.

### **LWC Project:**

Cody worked on the *Educating Youth about Healthy Eating* project.

**“I wish to lead by example in the ability to accept failures and transform them into successes...I will encourage people forward...” - Cody Bank**



**Brian Fischer.**  
Waupaca County DHHS

### **Brief Bio:**

Brian Fischer currently lives in Wisconsin Rapids WI along with his Wife, Daughter, Son, cat and two dogs. He achieved his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin Green Bay in Social Change & Development. Brian eventually went onto obtain his police certification from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College and was a Police Officer for almost 8 years in the city of Wisconsin Rapids. Being self-driven, and with encouragement from his wife, Brian is currently enrolled in a Public Administration graduate degree program with an anticipated graduation date of November 2018. Brian is currently employed by the Waupaca County Department of Health & Human Services as a Case Manager. In his free time, Brian enjoys watching his children play sports, serving as a board member of Waupaca Prevent Child Abuse, and is also Vice Chair for the City of Wisconsin Rapids Ethics Committee.

### **LWC Project:**

Brian worked on the *Aging in Place* project.

**“Collaboration is...key...and together we are stronger. I will lead by example, filled with empathy, compassion, and with a learning mindset. ”**

**- Brian Fischer**





**Todd Forseth**  
Sturm Foods  
Receiving Department

**Brief Bio:**

Todd Forseth is an Assistant Manager for the Receiving Department at Sturm Foods, where he leads, trains, develops, and oversees teams of supervisors, clerks, and heavy machinery operators to achieve daily goals while maximizing their potential and efficiency.

Todd has nearly 20 years of experience in the food industry, and has held various leadership positions in logistics, operations, and information technology at Sturm Foods. His current role makes him responsible for the receipts and quality of all delivered ingredients and packaging, warehousing of all raw materials, and the timely delivery of those items to manufacturing lines. He achieves those goals while maintaining focus on the safety of employees, equipment, and the facilities as well as being cost conscious.

Todd is a devoted family man, hiker, tourist, thinker, and a great guy to work for (or with) from Wisconsin

**LWC Project:**

Todd worked on the *Retaining Young People* project.

**“Good leaders are multipliers. They inspire those around them through patience, guidance, and accountability to achieve more than the sum of their individual parts.” -Todd Forseth**



**Jennifer Greenwood**  
Sturm Foods  
Biologist

**Brief Bio:**

Jennifer Greenwood has a passion for science and learning that can be traced back to the curiosities and discoveries that began developing early on in her life. She aspires to become a leader who not only values the person, but can play to their individual strengths and weaknesses to help the team reach their goal. She is currently employed as a Quality Assurance Microbiologist at Sturm Foods Inc. in Manawa, WI with aspirations of advancing in the company and growing in the field. Previously, Jennifer worked as a Biologist at Pfizer Global Supply in Middleton, WI and as a Diagnostic Laboratory Technician at Cherney Microbiological in Green Bay, WI. She graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison with a Bachelor of Science in Biology.

**LWC Project:**

Jennifer worked on the *Educating Youth about Healthy Eating* project.

**“Leadership is about using your passion, knowledge, and compassion to foster the growth and development of each individual on your team.”**

**- Jennifer Greenwood**





**Ken Horn**  
City of Waupaca—  
Waupaca Public Library

**Brief Bio:**

Ken lived and worked in Madison for over 35 years. He studied graphic arts at MATC and graduated from the UW-Madison in Journalism. He now lives in Waupaca and works with the Waupaca Public Library. His career has followed many paths as a software developer, early childhood educator, percussion teacher, teen center manager, graphic artist, photographer, sound engineer, world music radio programmer, and club DJ. He has collaborated with many artists and musicians focusing on multicultural performances and activities and is now volunteering with the Waupaca Community Arts Board. He loves the outdoors and fat-tire mountain biking, swimming in lakes, canoeing, hiking, wilderness camping, and outdoor photography.

**LWC Project:**

Ken worked on the *Retaining Young People* project.

**“Learn what those who we lead are passionate about and build positive relationships from there.” - Ken Horn**



**Gene LeSage**  
Waupaca Foundry  
Benefits Manager

**Brief Bio:**

Gene LeSage is the Benefits Manager at Waupaca Foundry. “Long Story Short” Gene is from Elizabethtown, Kentucky where he grew up as a military brat. After starting school at University of Louisville, Gene moved to Green Bay where he completed his Bachelor’s Degree in Business Finance. Gene and his wife, Angela, moved to Waupaca just over 4 years ago. Angela has family roots in Waupaca that date back 100+ years and although Gene is the “rookie” to Waupaca, he feels at home due to the love and support of family and friends. In his spare time, Gene enjoys playing sports (golf in particular), traveling, and spending time on the Chain O’ Lakes. Gene continues to support the local community by being a part of Waupaca County Leadership, working with the TOTO Foundation, and Waupaca Nomads.

**LWC Project:**

Gene worked on the *Retaining Young People* project.

**“A small gesture of empowerment now, may unlock a person’s greatest potential later.” - Gene LeSage**





**Nate Morgan**  
Sturm Foods  
Distribution Center

**Brief Bio:**

Nathan Morgan graduated Clintonville High School in 2007. Clintonville is where Nathan calls home, and though he has traveled to many places due his father being in the Navy, he loves the small town feel of Clintonville. Nathan has been a dedicated team member of Sturm Foods in the Distribution Center since 2009. He started as a material handler and worked his way into a leadership role. Nathan spends most of his free time with his wife and family. He is a member of a billiards league, and enjoys supporting the local Badger Amateur Baseball Association in Clintonville... Go A's!

**LWC Project:**

Nate worked on the *Educating Youth about Healthy Eating* project.

**“Leadership isn’t about knowing everything about everything, it’s about learning and adapting to whatever task or challenge is thrown your way. Treat every success and failure as a learning opportunity.” -Nate Morgan**



**Gene Mykisen**  
Waupaca County Highway  
Department

**Brief Bio:**

Born and raised on family cash crop farm in central Wisconsin, Gene lived and worked on the family farm through two years beyond high school graduation.

Gene served in the United States Army as a mechanic. Through hard work and a strong leadership drive, he excelled through the ranks and responsibilities were extended to him. He led a team of eight mechanics with a fleet of thirty to fifty trucks, trailers and other service equipment. He also ran the recovery system for five wreckers, tank recovery vehicles, low boy and flatbed recovery vehicles, along with the maintenance of two platoons of trucks and equipment.

After his service with the United States Army, Gene worked as a shop foreman at a local trucking firm, followed by Faulks Brothers Construction as a driver and equipment operator and Coonen Inc. where he worked in sales and as a plant manager. In 1998, Gene started driving truck with the Waupaca County Highway Department. Soon after, he advanced to Bull Dozer Operator, then Grader Operator. He is currently one of the top Grader Operators with the Waupaca County Highway Department.

Gene’s interests include hunting, horseback riding and trail riding with family and friends. Spending time with his wife Terri, six children, thirteen grandchildren and one great grandchild is very important to him.

**LWC Project:**

Gene worked on the *Educating Youth about Healthy Eating* project.

**“...work hard, treat everyone equally, fairly, and with respect. Always take the time to listen...with an open mind.” -Gene Mykisen**







**Dana Nelson**  
Waupaca County UWEX  
Program Support

**Brief Bio:**

Dana Nelson has been in the public sector for over 15 years, serving the public in a variety of departments and roles. Currently she provides program support to the Agriculture Agent, Community Development educator, and the Area Extension Director in the Waupaca County UW-Extension office. Dana has a key leadership role with the Waupaca County 4-H Dog Project. In the past she has taken on similar roles with 4-H, church, and the community. Dana enjoys training and competing with her dogs at AKC performance events, judging at 4-H fairs, and spending time with her family. She resides in Waupaca with her husband and their dogs. They have 3 adult children and 2 grandchildren.

**LWC Project:**

Dana worked on the *Aging in Place* project.

**“When your attitude is positive and you give your best effort, others will follow your lead. Being prepared is a must, but having the ability to be flexible benefits all aspects of leadership.” - Dana Nelson**



**Dave Stelzner**  
Presto Products  
Warehouse Manager

**Brief Bio:**

David Stelzner grew up in a small farming community, working on the family farm through his school years. After he graduated from high school, David with his love of hunting, fishing and trapping chose leave farming to apply for a forty-hour workweek at Presto Products, where he currently works as the Warehouse Manager. David's love for his community has kept him involved in the Weyauwega Volunteer Fire Department, the Learn to Hunt program, and he does work for his town as well.

Growing up in a family that loved the outdoors, Dave spent a lot of time outside with his father, uncle and grandfather. They taught him how to hunt, fish and trap. This ultimately gave Dave respect for nature and his community. As he grew into a young man, Dave began to share those qualities with others and he thought that joining the Weyauwega Fire department was a good way to help support the community and give back to others.

Dave volunteers for the Learn to hunt program in his county, where he is a head member. He is also a mentor, teaching children and adults about turkey hunting, and providing them the opportunity to hunt with him and other mentors.

**LWC Project:**

Dave worked on the *Educating Youth about Healthy Eating* project.

**“Keep an open mind and always keep on learning and helping your team do the best they can.” - Dave Stelzner**





**Heather Van Kooy**  
Waupaca County DHHS  
Certified Social Worker

**Brief Bio:**

Heather is Certified Social Worker, having worked in the Human Services field for over 16 years after graduating from UW-Oshkosh in 2001. Heather has spent these years spent serving people in Waupaca County. Heather's career has included working with children and families in child protective services and juvenile justice, working with chronically mentally ill adults through the Community Service Program, and most recently working with individuals and families experiencing crisis. Heather has a passion for working with those experiencing mental health and other life crises and strives to assist them in feeling empowered and taking control in their treatment. Having been raised in a small rural community, and with excellent family values, these traits are often applied in her service.

**LWC Project:**

Heather worked on the *Aging in Place* project.

**“...leadership begins within, using honesty, empathy, trust, and values to build yourself and those you lead.” - Heather Van Kooy**



**Andrew Voss**  
Waupaca County  
Highway Department

**Brief Bio:**

Andrew Voss has lived in Waupaca County his whole life and has been given the opportunity to work for the Waupaca County Highway Department for the past four years. Not only does he love his job and trying to make Waupaca County a better place, but Andrew is also a family man with two girls; one of whom has special needs. This has taught him to not take anything for granted and to hold true the values in which he cares most about. He has been a member of his church board for 7 years, 4 of which have been as president, and has also served on Ducks Unlimited for 10 years, helping with different benefits and fundraising events in the community.

**LWC Project:**

Andrew worked on the *Lack of Local Treatment for Drug Addiction* project.

**“...A good leader listens to everyone, respects everyone equally, works well with anybody on the team and resolves any problems that arise...and strives to be a good communicator...” - Andrew Voss**





**Jed Wohlt**  
Waupaca County DHHs  
Public Health Officer

**Brief Bio:**

Jed Wohlt is the Public Health Officer at Waupaca County Department of Health & Human Services. He started his career in public health, working in environmental health as a registered sanitarian, first with Winnebago County and then moving on to Waupaca County. Prior to working in public health he worked in microbiology.

Jed received his bachelors of science degree at the University of Minnesota. While he arduously worked on his studies he still managed to fulfill his passion for sports by attending many gopher games, including witnessing the gophers go to a Final Four – he was later told that didn't happen.

Jed lives near his hometown of Weyauwega in the Town of Royalton with his wife Julia and their two children. Jed enjoys playing basketball, coaching youth sports, rooting for all WI sports teams, fishing and hunting.

**LWC Project:**

Jed worked on the *Retaining Young People* project.

**“Work, act, and speak with honesty, consistency and a purpose to be the best.” - Jed Wohlt**



**Mandy Zastrow**  
Premier Community Bank  
Iola Branch Manager

**Brief Bio:**

Mandy Zastrow works as a branch manager for Premier Community Bank at the Iola location. She started her banking career as a teller in 1997. Over the years, she has served in various roles including teller, customer service representative, personal banker and most recently becoming a branch manager and consumer lender. Since beginning her career in banking, Mandy also earned a Bachelor's of Science degree in Education, with minors in both Health and Coaching. She believes her coaching minor has played a big role in helping influence her leadership role as a branch manager. Mandy lives in the Fremont area with her husband, Jeremy, and children, Jordan and Alivia. Mandy has a passion for coaching and truly enjoys the opportunity to coach volleyball to youth of all ages. She also enjoys traveling, running, playing volleyball, gardening and simply being outdoors.

**LWC Project:**

Mandy worked on the *Retaining Young People* project.

**“As an effective leader....it is important to be part of the team, ask good questions, pursue continuing education, care deeply, listen and inspire others to achieve more than they thought possible.” - Mandy Zastrow**







**Scott Zirbel**  
Waupaca County  
Highway Department

**Brief Bio:**

Scott Zirbel was born February 9, 1976 in New London WI. He was raised on a dairy farm in Royalton hails from a family of 6. Scott graduated from Little Wolf High School in 1994 and continued his education at UW Madison and MATC where he earned an associate degree in Diesel mechanics. After college, Scott worked for Caroline Implements, a John Deere dealership. In 2001, he began working at the Waupaca County Highway Department where he currently works on the construction crew, operating heavy equipment. Scott is married and has two children, a 9 year old son and a 5 year old daughter. Scott lives with his family on a beef farm where they raise Angus cattle. In his free time, Scott enjoys working on the farm, hunting out west and camping with his family.

**LWC Project:**

Scott worked on the *Aging in Place* project.

**“Leadership is to surround yourself with honest, good people who have the ability, judgement and knowledge, but above all a passion for service.”**

**-Scott Zirbel**



**Madison Trip (Session 5) January, 2018**

