

KINGSTON

— *Economic Development* —

Kingston Young Professionals 40 under 40

Meet the recipients





Kingston Young Professionals 40 under 40

Celebrating the exceptional achievements and contributions of individuals under the age of 40 to their profession and the community.

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Wael Abuzeid

Queen's University

Wael is an interventional Cardiologist at the Kingston Health Sciences Center (KHSC) and an associate professor of Medicine at Queen's. He studied Biomedical Computing at Queen's as an undergraduate student, completed his medical school at the University of Ottawa and his residency, master's degree, and fellowship training at the University of Toronto. He has been on staff at KHSC and Queen's since 2017 and helped start and lead a minimally invasive transcatheter mitral valve program in Kingston serving patients of southeastern Ontario. He is currently the research lead for the division of Cardiology at Queen's and has a specific interest in minimally invasive percutaneous structural heart interventions as well as complex percutaneous coronary artery interventions. He is a father of two young boys and in his free time he loves to barbeque, play squash, and flite-board in Lake Ontario



Sebastian Alamillo- Falkenberg

RxN Hub

Sebastian moved to Kingston in 2009 to attend elementary school and later Regiopolis Notre-Dame where he learned that Chemistry held the answers to our climate's biggest challenges and solutions. So, he went to the University of Waterloo to start his career as the founder of a grid-level energy storage company that enabled renewable energy in industrial applications. Following an incredibly difficult go-to-market experience, he set the rest of his career to helping founders bring their sustainable technologies to life: both for the mental health of the people willing to take on the risks of starting a company and to ensure the world has the tools to fight back against a toxic environment. Now, he does this with a group of partners at a not-for-profit called RXN HUB - a 220,000 sq.ft. Kingston-based facility that offers a unique and an internationally recognized program for scale-up of chemical technologies.



Adam Allore

Wavve Boating

Adam is the CEO of Wavve Boating, a mobile technology company with the mission to make marine navigation easier, safer, and more accessible. Since founding the company in 2018, Adam and the Wavve team have developed innovative solutions for the recreational marine industry making Wavve Boating an award winning app used by thousands of boaters across the globe. Adam is a graduate from Queen's University, and was formerly a Mechanical Engineer for a number of companies in the Kingston area. When not working/building, Adam loves to spend time with his wife and son.



Jennifer Baker

*Jennifer Baker
Consulting*

Jennifer Baker is the CEO of JBC, a digital marketing agency based in Kingston, Ontario, specializing in organic social media and paid advertising solutions. With over 12 years of experience, Jennifer has expanded her team to three professionals and provides services to clients across Canada and the United States. She holds a Master of Education (MEd), a Bachelor of Education in Adult Education (BEd), and a Bachelor of Arts in Business and Economics (BA). Outside of her professional pursuits, Jennifer enjoys spending quality time with her husband and son and immersing herself in nature.



Dr. Rachel Baker

Queen's University

Dr. Rachel Baker is the Robins Family Assistant Professor of Engineering Chemistry at Queen's University. She grew up in Kingston, and returned home after studying at Queen's University, the University of Toronto, and the California Institute of Technology. Her research group investigates ways to incorporate sustainability into the chemical industry, using renewable energy and sustainable building blocks. Outside of research and teaching, Rachel enjoys spreading her enthusiasm of science to the public, spending time with her family, and reading.



Marco Bassendowski

mb Prototyping Ltd

Marco is the founder and CEO of mb Prototyping Ltd., a company dedicated to helping customers rapidly prototype their products cost-effectively and responsibly. He spent several years working as a research and development engineer in Germany, gaining valuable experience in product innovation and extensive expertise in a wide range of materials and their properties, especially plastics and silicone. Marco holds a degree in engineering from the Hochschule Darmstadt, building the foundation for his technical expertise and his passion for creating practical solutions that drive both business success and environmental responsibility.



Jessica Bredschneider

St. Lawrence College

Jessica Bredschneider is a seasoned marketing and communications professional. As the former Director of Marketing for Benefits by Design (BBD) Inc., she developed impactful marketing campaigns that contributed to BBD's growth. Currently, she is a full-time Faculty member and the Program Coordinator for the Digital Marketing Communications program at St Lawrence College, where she educates future digital marketers. Jessica is also a passionate community advocate, leading the Kingston chapter of Canada Learning Code for five years and contributing to local philanthropic efforts.



Ian Burns (Rowena Whey)

Performer / Activist

Ian (he/she/they) is Kingston's premiere drag entertainer and promoter, Rowena Whey. With a focus on inclusion and community building, Ian has been recognized as a leader in the LGBTQ+ community. He has spent five years working with Kingston Pride, acting as president 2020-2023. Building on his goals, in 2022, Ian started Kingston's only open stage drag show to provide opportunities for new drag performers. As a community ambassador for queer advocacy both in and out of drag, Ian is a frequent guest speaker, hosting fundraisers and educational programming for multiple organizations including International Day of Pink, Canadian Centre for Gender & Sexual Diversity, Rainbow Railroad, Feed Ontario, and Trellis HIV & Community Care. In 2020, Ian was the first drag performer to be featured on a product sold in the LCBO with Queen of Wheat, a charity beer partnership with Spearhead Brewing Co. He has been featured in Maclean's and Broadview for his work.



Scott Compeau

BGC South East

Scott is a born and raised 38-year-old Kingstonian who enjoys life within the city with his wife and two young children, immediate family members, and friends. He has been described as a charismatic and outgoing person who enjoys chatting and having fun with people. Professionally, Scott has benefited from diverse pathways as a Chemical Engineer, a K-12 classroom teacher, an education researcher, and has over 10 years of experience working in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education outreach. He is currently the Director of Education & Innovation for BGC South East, bringing with him his passion for providing STEM learning opportunities for children and youth in the Kingston area.



Radford Cowan

Knifey Spooney

After years working in French and Italian fine dining, Radford joined Christina in starting Knifey Spooney in 2017-to fill the need for plant-based options in our city. During this time, he has helped jump start Kingston's vegan food scene including helping local restaurants develop and launch vegan menus, teach cooking classes, offer holiday meals, events, wedding catering and more. While technically they serve food, Knifey Spooney aims to use their medium to encourage ordinary citizens to get involved in the world around them and uses food to highlight the many intersectional ways our diet affects the world.



Marina Darling

Queen's University

Marina Darling is a consultant, facilitator, and strategist with a passion for innovation, creative problem-solving, and leadership. An alumnus of Queen's University, she holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and a Master of Management Innovation and Entrepreneurship from Smith School of Business. Certified in Change Management (PROSCI) and Process Management (Excellence Canada), Marina is currently the Organizational Development Consultant at Queen's University, supporting departments with organization design, training, team development, and change management. A dedicated community-builder, Marina serves on multiple committees and leads a community of practice for Organizational Development professionals in Ontario. In her free time, she enjoys photography, nature, and adventures with her family.



Dr. Kevin De France

Queen's University

Dr. Kevin De France (34) is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering at Queen's University. He leads a research group of 12 students focusing on the design of sustainable bio-based materials for agricultural, biomedical, coatings & packaging, and environmental applications. Kevin has been granted over \$3.8M in research funding to directly support his work and has been recognized by several prestigious awards, highlighted by the 2024 Queen's University Undergraduate Research Mentorship Award for dedication to student supervision.



Kaitlyn del Rosario

Providence Care

Kaitlyn del Rosario has been the Director of Nursing since 2015, leading in the Long-Term Care sector. She consistently enhances her expertise in HR Law, Long-Term Care Legislation, Compliance, Governance, and Ethics. Kaitlyn completed the Administrator Leadership Program at Advantage Ontario, Osgoode Hall's workshops on consent and decision-making, and earned a Workplace Mental Health Leadership™ Certificate from Queen's University. Currently, she is pursuing St. Lawrence College's Registered Nurse Prescribing course. A respected advocate, Kaitlyn contributes to elder abuse prevention and quality improvement in gerontology. She credits her team and her mother for her career success, drawing daily inspiration from their support and dedication.



Rachel Doornekamp

The Inclusive Play Project

Rachel is a pediatric occupational therapist with over 10 years experience working with children and youth with complex special needs. She is also the founder of The Inclusive Play Project, a community group that is currently fundraising 1.5 million dollars towards Kingston's first fully inclusive playground at Shannon Park. Rachel sits on the Board of Directors for Extend a Family Kingston and is passionate about advocating for inclusive play and accessibility here in Kingston.



Sophie Anne Felleiter

*Queen's University,
Research
Administrator*

Sophie earned her Master's in Microbiology from Queen's University and transitioned into research administration at Public Health Ontario and KFL&A Public Health, where she helped establish Kingston as a hub for clinical Lyme Disease research. Returning to Queen's, she supported the Beaty Water Research Centre's creation. Now a Research Development Officer in Chemical Engineering, Sophie has helped secure millions in grants for natural sciences, engineering, and health research. She is a key contributor to the Queen's research community and volunteers actively with the local Science Fair, sharing her passion for science that promotes environmental and human wellbeing.



Gerhard Freundorfer

*Spark at
St. Lawrence
College*

Gerhard leads a team of students to deliver creative solutions to the marketing and design challenges faced by local businesses and organizations. Through participation in multiple grants, including HI YGK and Tech Scale Up, Gerhard and the team have supported nearly one hundred businesses and helped dozens of students kick-start their careers. Passionate about the concept of student enterprise and its ability to bridge the classroom and the workplace, Gerhard is committed to preparing career-ready students and looks forward to expanding student enterprises into new sectors.



Liv Halliday

*Benjamin Hotels,
BPE Group*

Liv Halliday grew up in Newmarket, Ontario, and moved to Kingston to attend Queen's University. After graduating in 2017, she began her career with BPE Development Inc., where she has played an integral role in building the company's hospitality and real estate portfolio. Known for her innovative approach to property development and management, Liv has been instrumental in growing various ventures, including Sanctuary Coworking and Benjamin Hotels. Currently, she is focused on the design and development of The Belvedere Hotel, set to open in fall 2024.



Dr. Hesam Hassan Nejad

*Parsam
Immigration
Services Inc.*

Dr. Hesam Hassan Nejad came to Canada as an international student in 2012 to pursue his Ph.D. and started his entrepreneurial journey in Kingston in 2020. He had made Parsam Immigration Services Inc. a success by generating more than \$400,000 annual gross revenue in just 3 years and by employing three Kingstonsians full-time. His main drive is to reunite Canadian spouses and common-law partners coming from all around the world to Canada, as well as foreign investors or entrepreneurs, and ultimately making Kingston a more diverse city.



Glenn Hendry

Pinchin Ltd.

Glenn Hendry is an accomplished environmental consultant at Pinchin Ltd., with a Bachelor of Science from the University of Guelph and a diploma in Environmental Technology from Sir Sanford Fleming College. Since joining Pinchin Ltd. in 2011, Glenn has been instrumental in the Kingston office's growth and success. Over 13 years, he has excelled in project management, client relations, and office leadership, playing a pivotal role in expanding the Kingston office from 6 to 22 local employees since 2011.



Lucas Heney

James Media

Lucas Heney is the Creative Director and owner of James Media Co, a dynamic and innovative media production company right here in the heart of Kingston. With a passion for storytelling and a sharp eye for visual aesthetics, Lucas has established himself as a leader in the creative industry. Under his direction, James Media Co has grown into an industry leading advertising agency, delivering high-quality content and cutting-edge media solutions to a diverse portfolio of clients. Lucas's client-centric approach along with his expertise in branding, digital marketing, and multimedia production has positioned the company as a trusted name in the industry, and as such, James Media has fostered long-term partnerships with some of Kingston and Ontario's largest and well-known businesses. His commitment to creativity and excellence drives the company's vision, continually pushing the boundaries of media production and setting new industry standards.



Celine Klein

Jamstone Productions

Celine immigrated from France in 2018 and started her photography and videography company, offering professional-level content to artists in Kingston. Over the years, she has worked on documentaries, numerous music videos, and collaborated with local artists, festivals, and governmental organizations. Celine loves connecting with new artists, creating adventurous filming atmospheres, and capturing the essence of any moment. She is always ready to take on new challenges and bring any project to life.



Jenna Knight

Jenna Knight Strategy Co. & Women Making Impact

Jenna Knight is a strategic planning and marketing consultant with a track record of growing and scaling brands, like Nike, Visa, Microsoft, Procter & Gamble, TJX, NFL, and more across multiple industries. After nearly 20 years in business, Jenna has become passionate about helping female-founded businesses succeed through strategic planning, impactful branding and marketing, and seamless execution. Jenna also volunteers with the Parent Council at a local school, is the Chair of Kingston Daycare Executive Board, and she recently launched a new organization connecting and championing women leaders in our community through Women Making Impact.



Ksenia Knyazeva

Patriam Coffee

Ksenia Knyazeva is the owner of Patriam, a local coffee shop that focuses on using local organic ingredients, sustainability and community-building. Patriam started as a mobile coffee bar and in just under 3 years, a brick-and-mortar location was opened in the East End of Kingston. In 2024 Patriam has launched a line of their own canned caffeinated beverages that sell all over Ontario.

After moving to Canada by herself 14 years ago, Ksenia has been proudly called Kingston home for the past 9. She teaches at SLC in the School of Business and serves as a board member of Fat Goose Art Collective.



Yu Jier Kou

*Kingston
Immigration
Partnership*

Yu Jier Kou is a community convener with extensive experience in supporting underserved populations through strategic partnerships and program implementation. As the Coordinator for Kingston Immigration Partnership, Yu Jier has spearheaded initiatives such as the "Welcome to Kingston App" and collaborated with local community partners to advocate for a more welcoming environment for newcomers. With a strong background in outreach and advocacy, Yu Jier focuses on advancing inclusive initiatives. Yu Jier serves on the Canadian Council for Refugees Immigration and Settlement Steering Committee, the Kingston Literacy & Skills Board of Directors, and the Chinese Canadian Association of Kingston & District Executive Committee.



Dr. Alanna Kuhn Sauer, ND

*Natural Route
Health Inc.*

Dr. Alanna Kuhn, ND is a Naturopathic Doctor and founder of Natural Route Health Inc, an integrative medical clinic that has been helping the Kingston community since 2013. Her practice focuses on women's hormone health including extensive experience managing thyroid conditions, autoimmune disorders, and chronic digestive issues. She aims to empower her patients by making connections between their symptoms, getting to the root cause of their concerns, and finding effective solutions.



Morgan Lehtinen

RxN Hub

Morgan is a researcher, ecosystem builder, educator, and innovation consultant with over a decade of experience advancing chemical technologies in academia and startups. While completing her PhD in chemistry at Queen's University, she founded a cleantech startup, gaining support from Next36 and Creative Destruction Lab. To better support deep tech founders, Morgan now works at RXN HUB, a 220,000 sq. ft. facility in Kingston, helping scale chemical technologies. She actively mentors and promotes initiatives for under-represented groups in STEM and entrepreneurship. Her contributions have earned her awards like the Agnes Benidickson Tricolour Award and recognition as one of Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Award Winners in 2023.



Erica McIlquham

*Queen's University
& Livingston Co*

Erica McIlquham is a passionate advocate for community impact and integrity, serving as Executive Director of Development at Queen's University in Health Sciences. Drawn to Kingston's vibrant spirit and commitment to global influence, she is dedicated to driving positive change through her work in advancement and her entrepreneurial ventures, including Livingston Co., co-founded with Kate McIlquham. Erica's journey reflects her belief in belonging, community, and the power of living authentically while making a meaningful difference.



Jenna Morley

Loopstra Nixon LLP

Jenna is a Partner in the Municipal, Land Use Planning and Development Law group at Loopstra Nixon LLP.

Jenna acts for municipalities and private developers on a broad range of land use planning and development matters, including Planning Act applications and approvals, development agreements, land acquisition and disposition, and Ontario Land Tribunal appeals. Her expertise also extends to commercial leasing, where Jenna represents commercial, retail, office and industrial landlords and tenants in a variety of commercial leasing matters.

Prior to joining the firm, Jenna was the City Solicitor and Director of Legal Services for the City of Kingston.

Jenna received a B.A.H. (Linguistics) from Queen's University in 2007 and her JD from Osgoode Hall Law School in 2011.



Michele Morningstar

Queen's University

Dr. Michele Morningstar is an assistant professor in the Developmental area of the Department of Psychology at Queen's University. She is the Director of the Development of Social & Emotional Communication (DSEC) Lab, a scientific research group that seeks to understand how youth grow the ability to express and interpret emotions. Michele also volunteers on the board of directors for Youth Imagine the Future, a yearly art festival that showcases youth's vision of positive climate solutions for a brighter future. Michele is passionate about bringing science to practice in the local Kingston community, to enrich the lives of youth and their families.



Colin Morris

Kingston Frameworks

Colin Morris is a husband, a father of four, and the second-generation owner of Kingston Frameworks. Under his leadership, his company has expanded to serve clients across Canada from Kingston, and they are opening their second brick-and-mortar location in Belleville/Quinte this fall. Colin believes in giving back to the community, which he does by creating free events for the public, opportunities for artists to grow their art careers, and sponsorships of many local groups and charities. Kingston Frameworks is quickly becoming a nationally recognized brand.



Dr. Rebecca Palmer

Bayridge Animal Hospital

Dr. Rebecca Palmer is a small animal veterinarian. She works in general practice full time, providing care to local animals with both medical and surgical practice. In her spare time, she also fills in at the local emergency clinic and humane society in both locum and volunteer capacities, providing much needed veterinary services to local animals in need. It has been her pleasure getting to know Kingston's pets and the people who love them, and is both honoured and humbled to be amongst this group of recipients.



Erin Peterson

Distributive

Erin Peterson is a Kingston native with a degree in computer engineering, specialized in Artificial Intelligence (AI) from Queen's University. She is an AI Ethicist and Tech Lead at Distributive, a Kingston based deep tech company that is reimagining how we approach computing. Erin represents Distributive on the Canadian Chamber of Commerce AI Council, and is passionate about the ethics of AI and the development of AI regulation. She is currently pursuing her Juris Doctor with the goal of furthering the field of AI law and policy.



Lisa Petrie

Petrie Ford

Lisa was born and raised in Kingston, Ontario. She has a degree from the University of Western Ontario. She has been working at the dealership for over 15 years and recently has become a third-generation owner of Petrie Ford. She believes in the importance of community involvement with plans to continue and grow local partnerships within the community.



Abdul Razak Jendi

*Kingston Economic
Development
Corporation*

Abdul Razak is an Investment Manager at Kingston Economic Development Corporation, specializing in international trade and FDI. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Eastern Ontario Economic Development Commission and SWITCH Ontario. Abdul held the position of Deputy Director for the Global New York Canada Office. In the UAE, he managed contracts worth \$6.5 billion with Tabreed and secured a \$14 million steel deal between Turkey and India during his tenure in the steel industry. Abdul holds a Bachelor's in Accounting and Finance from the American University of Sharjah and is pursuing his Master's in Economics at Concordia University.



Holly Ryan

art by Holly Ryan

Holly Ryan is a preservation artist specializing in turning real flowers and cherished memories into timeless works of art. With a talent for capturing the beauty of nature and the essence of loved ones, her intricate designs offer a tangible and lasting way to honor special moments. Each piece is meticulously crafted with a keen eye for detail, resulting in unique treasures that hold deep sentimental value for every one of her clients. Through her heartfelt creations, Holly provides a meaningful way to celebrate life's milestones and pay tribute to those we hold dear.



Zach Skolnick

ABNA Investments Ltd.

Born and raised in Kingston, Zach graduated from Queen's University's Smith School of Business in 2019 and holds a Professional Certificate in Commercial Real Estate from Cornell University. He began his career as a Real Estate Analyst at Keilty Realty Corporation, where he launched a private equity real estate investment business. In 2022, Zach joined ABNA Investments Ltd. as Manager of Investment & Development, overseeing major projects like Union Park Kingston and Queen City Lofts. Promoted to Vice President in 2024, Zach is also actively involved in charitable initiatives such as Hockey Helps the Homeless and the Cure Cancer Classic, raising over \$1.92 million for the Canadian Cancer Society.



Lindsay Stoness

St. Lawrence College

Lindsay is the Manager of Academic Operations for Applied Science, Technology, and Trades at St. Lawrence College, while also teaching part-time at Loyalist College. Before taking on her current role, Lindsay spent seven years at Queen's University in Housing and Ancillary Services, while completing her Professional Master of Education (PME) degree. With a deep passion for post-secondary education, she is dedicated to building strong teams and fostering meaningful relationships. In her free time, she enjoys baking her signature Sassy Sweets for friends and family. Despite her busy schedule, Lindsay is committed to maintaining a balance of working hard but always playing harder.



Kelsey Tucker

Providence Care

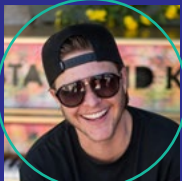
Kelsey is a proud Occupational Therapist, community member, and green thumb. Now proudly employed at Providence Care Hospital, she has worked in community mental health in Kingston for the better part of the past decade. She tries to live a life closely aligned with her core values of compassion, empowerment, stewardship, and playfulness. You may also know Kelsey from her involvement with Cooking Connections, the Community Gardens Networks, Little Forests Kingston, Health Providers Against Poverty, the Peer 2 Community pilot, the local NDP, & Queen's School of Rehab among other endeavors.



Allison Turner

PnuVax

Allison Turner is the Co-Founder and Director of Product Development at PnuVax, headquartered in Kingston. Allison enjoys ongoing engagement within her local startup communities, and is an avid supporter of entrepreneurship and health equity through innovation. She has a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering from Queen's University, and leads the PnuVax R&D team in biomanufacturing more affordable products for infectious diseases. Toward the aim of democratizing access to vaccines and therapeutics worldwide, Allison has worked on new products for Ebola, yellow fever, MERS, COVID-19, monkeypox, and pneumonia, including successfully developing PnuVax PCV-25; the world's lowest cost conjugate pneumonia vaccine candidate with a target price point of only one dollar per dose.



Hill Werth

Slow & Intentional

Born & raised in the U.S., Hill Werth is a former pro athlete and internationally recognized trans non-binary mixed media artist and activist, using their art and voice to spread visibility, awareness, and representation. From making guest speaking appearances at k-12 schools and universities to publications, Hill has had great success as an artist, athlete, and educator. Using various mediums, their creations are the result of emotions pouring out, transcending from personal experiences and endeavors. This allows Hill to achieve patterned layers of balance and composition.

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