

20 Under 40: Gina Martin



Gina Martin is an insurance agent and owner of Farmers Insurance in Galesburg. She is a recipient of the 20 Under 40 award.
LEWIS MARIEN/The Register-Mail

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GALESBURG — This week's recipient of the Young Professionals of Galesburg and the Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce's "20 Under 40" award to be profiled is Gina Martin, owner of Farmers Insurance Agency.

According to the nomination, Martin "is the epitome of a go-getter. She sets a goal and accomplishes it. When Gina was given the opportunity to open her own Farmers Insurance office, it wasn't exactly the best time for her ... so she set forth to accomplish all of the goals they set for her in record time. She is generous with her time and excellent to work with."

Further, the nomination stated Martin "is an inspiration to young women professionals who wish to continue to grow their business and be active in the community while raising children."

Here's more about Martin, in her own words:

Q. What do you do in your current position?

A. As an agency owner at Farmers Insurance, my office has the ability to assist individuals and businesses in all areas of insurance and financial services. The agency's one-on-one service presents value for the purchase of home, auto, disability, long term care and over and under 65 health insurance. I also help individuals plan for their retirement, educational funding and protect what matters most with life insurance.

Q. How are you involved in the community?

A. Currently I am a BNI Member and Past Vice President, CASA Board Secretary, OSF Auxiliary Board Secretary, Knoxville Community Fund Advisory Board Member, PEO HO Chapter Member and Chamber of Commerce Member. In the past year, I have volunteered for Discovery Depot, Knoxville Athletic Boosters and as a Nielson Grade School Reading Buddy.

Q. Of what achievement are you most proud?

A. This year has been quite the ride for me personally and professionally! I decided to pursue the opportunity of owning my own business midway through my first pregnancy and opened my office within two weeks of the arrival of my daughter. I am extremely proud that I have continually exceeded sales goals with Farmers Insurance, maintained my responsibilities to those organizations to which I serve, created two jobs in our community all while juggling my new title as mother. All of which I would not have been able to do without the endless support of my family, friends and clients.

Q. What advice do you have for other young professionals?

A. The best way to get to where you want to be is to strive to be better than you were the day before. Take on extra projects at work, improve on your weaknesses, join organizations that interest you and build relationships with as many people as you can. You rule your own world and the best way to predict it is to create it.

Q. What's the most important thing people should know about your community?

A. Galesburg has shown itself to me as a great place to work and start a family. You have the opportunity to create valuable relationships in a smaller community and also experience the recent growth of businesses that keep our community growing.

Gina Martin Age: 30 Residence: Knoxville Profession: Farmers Insurance Agency owner Education: Abingdon High School 2004; bachelor's of science from Illinois State University, 2008 Family: Parents, Keith and Jody Douglass; husband, Adam, UPS driver; daughter, Alera, 6 months

About the award The Young Professionals of Galesburg and the Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce have launched the "20 Under 40" award. This award honors 20 individuals under the age of 40 considered to be "movers and shakers" in the community. Honorees will be profiled each week through Jan. 31, 2016, in The Register-Mail. They will be included in a special supplement in February 2016, in addition to being recognized at the chamber's annual dinner to be held in February 2016. The 20 honorees are judged on their outstanding career achievements and community impact. A panel of judges evaluated each nomination on information provided in the following categories: Reason for nomination, career achievements/special awards and recognition, community involvement, volunteerism and community service leadership skills.