

20 Under 40: Alexis Clark says don't put time limit on success



Alexis Clark.
STEVE DAVIS/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 Alexis Clark, director of operations for G&M Distributors Inc.

The nomination form for Clark details how she began with the company as a receptionist after graduating Western Illinois University. Clark "quickly proved she was smart, capable and willing to work hard."

She was promoted to be the company's purchasing agent, following by a promotion to the position of Director of Purchasing and Procurement, and this past summer, she was again promoted to her current position. In this role, Clark oversees 36 employees, manages G&M's inventory, delivery and shipping teams and is preparing to lead the company's effort in the transition to location-based inventory.

"Alexis continues to impress those around her," the nomination form states. "Her work ethic and dedication serve as an example for others."

Here's more about Clark in her own words:

Q. What do you do in your current position?

A. I am responsible for the daily operations of G&M Distributors. I oversee delivery, purchasing and warehouse operations. I am there to make sure productivity and accuracy is achieved at the highest level. I am also there to encourage teamwork and collaboration to achieve company standards.

Q. How are you involved in the community?

A. I have been involved within the community through working at G&M. I have led the annual holiday fundraiser providing over 100 winter coats to area schools, Christmas gifts to local nursing homes, gifts to special needs homes and Christmas gifts to children in need. I have also led the Anheuser-Busch World Environment Day, where our employees volunteer to clean up and plant trees at our local parks. I obviously, couldn't have done any of those events without the help of our generous employees.

Q. Of what achievement are you most proud?

A. I am most proud of my advancement within G&M Distributors. Eight years ago, I started at G&M as the receptionist, I then quickly moved up to Purchasing Agent, from there I went on to become the Director of Operations. G&M has given me the confidence to share that hard work and dedication will pay off. I have then used this to encourage and motivate other employees to stay focused and work hard to achieve their goals.

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

A. My advice would be to never give up. Challenges will present themselves, and moments of doubt will be there, but keep your focus on your goal and you will always succeed. Also, do not put a time limit on your success. Just because it isn't happening the way you think it should doesn't mean it won't happen.

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

A. I was born and raised in Galesburg, so you could say I am kind of protective of my community. One thing that can be said for Galesburg is the support it brings in a time of need. Throughout several hardships including teacher strikes, illness, disasters, etc., the community and local businesses always come forward and support the people in need. I am proud to have my children grow up in a community that shows so much empathy towards others.

Alexis Clark: Age: 32: **Residence:** Galesburg: **Profession:** Director of operations at G&M Distributors Inc.: **Education:** Bachelor of science with a minor in management from Western Illinois University: **Family:** Husband, Nathan Clark; daughters, DeLaney, 11, Lillian, 10, and Ryleigh, 8; and son, Brody, 3.

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.