

2024 Young Professional of the Year Finalists

ABRAHAM HALER/NEW CASTLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION –

Abraham Haler currently serves as the Career Coach at New Castle High School, where he helps students explore career paths, builds trust with them, and provides guidance as they prepare for their futures. His commitment to the community extends beyond his professional role, as he is actively involved in New Covenant Worship Center, volunteering with youth ministries and serving on the church's financial team. Abraham is also a board member of Rivals for Good, supporting healthy sportsmanship and philanthropy in local high school athletics.

In addition to his work in education and community service, Abraham is an entrepreneur and the owner of OCD Detailing, a successful car detailing business. He is known for his dedication to his students, regularly attending events to support them, and going above and beyond in his responsibilities. Abraham is a leader who leads by example, demonstrating integrity, selflessness, and a strong work ethic across his work, church, and business. With a deep passion for the New Castle community, Abraham's leadership and impact are just beginning, and he has a clear vision for the future.

EMILY HURST/NEW CASTLE MAIN STREET – Emily Hurst is a transformative force in New Castle, known for her dedication to improving the community through hands-on leadership. She played a key role in securing the \$2 million PreservING Main Street grant, driving significant improvements in the downtown area. Emily leads numerous initiatives that bring people together, from revitalizing the Castle Theater with holiday movies to organizing community events like the beer festival at Arts Park. She is deeply involved in supporting local businesses, helping them grow, and creating opportunities for residents to connect.

Emily's commitment extends beyond major projects; she is consistently volunteering her time to enhance the downtown area and support local businesses. Her energy and vision inspire others to believe in New Castle's potential. As a young professional, she has already made a lasting impact, supporting economic development, volunteering for the Chamber Board, and teaching Broadway music to kids. Her dedication to continuous learning and community development ensures that her work is innovative and effective. Emily's leadership fosters a sense of belonging and inclusion, making New Castle a better place for everyone. Her ability to take risks, make mistakes, and learn from them makes her an exceptional nominee for Young Professional of the Year.

ZOE WILLIAMS – NEW CASTLE CAREER CENTER - Zoe Williams, a graduate of Tri High School and Purdue University, returned to New Castle Career Center (NCCC) to teach Veterinary Science after working as an emergency Veterinary Nurse in Indianapolis. As a first-year teacher, she has made a remarkable impact by sharing her passion for animals, providing hands-on experiences, and actively improving the program. Zoe takes pride in being involved in the community, offering discounted pet grooming services, and organizing volunteer trips for her students to the local animal shelter. Her classroom is known for being safe, calm, and organized, where students learn valuable skills to prepare for their careers.

Zoe's commitment to the program and community is evident in her efforts to secure internships for students and her dedication to ongoing professional development. She is open-minded, constantly seeking new ways to enhance her teaching and shares her learnings with others. Her passion for education and her ability to manage the classroom like a seasoned teacher have earned her respect from both students and colleagues.

Zoe's connection to the community, where she grew up, is central to her work. Her leadership and community service, including her efforts with the local animal shelter, reflect her strong desire to give back. As a teacher, she exemplifies professionalism, work ethic, and a deep commitment to her students' success. Her return to NCCC and leadership of the Veterinary Science program is a significant asset to the community and the students she serves.