

FOUR UNDER 40 AWARDS



The Next Wave

Celebrating *The Next Wave* of leaders in the Brainerd Lakes Area. Hosted by the WAVE Young Professionals Network—a program by the Brainerd Lakes Chamber of Commerce.

AWARD CRITERIA

A PANEL OF ANONYMOUS JUDGES WILL SCORE THE APPLICANTS BASED ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA.

PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE

Nominees should exhibit excellence in their profession, demonstrating a high level of expertise and accomplishment.

LEADERSHIP

Nominees should demonstrate strong leadership qualities, inspiring and motivating others to achieve success.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Nominees should be actively engaged in their community, volunteering their time and talents to support local causes and organizations.

POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

Nominees should show promise for continued success and leadership in their careers and community.

Help us celebrate *The Next Wave* of leaders in the Brainerd Lakes Area! We seek to recognize outstanding young professionals between the ages of 18 and 39 who live and work in the BLA. Hosted by the WAVE Young Professionals Network—a program by the Brainerd Lakes Chamber—the *Four Under 40 Awards* celebrate the talent, ambition, and accomplishments of young leaders shaping the future of our community. Honorees inspire others to strive for excellence and make a positive impact in their chosen fields and beyond.

Together with our Presenting Sponsor Brainerd Dispatch, we invite individuals, businesses, and community organizations to nominate a worthy young professional to receive a *Four Under 40 Award*. The four winners will be recognized at the Awards Gala on September 19th, 2024. Of the four award winners, one individual will be named the *Young Professional of the Year* LIVE at the event!

NOMINATION DEADLINE: JULY 12, 2024

AWARDS GALA: SEPTEMBER 19, 2024



Learn more & nominate or apply: WaveYPN.com

MAY 22 – JULY 12	LATE JULY	EARLY AUGUST	SEPTEMBER 19	NOVEMBER 21
Nominate a young professional or apply to win a Four Under 40 Award.	Judges meet to review applications. Four Under 40 winners are selected. From the four winners, one is selected as the Young Professional of the Year.	Four Under 40 winners are announced & publicized.	Awards Gala honors the four winners. The Young Professional of the Year is announced LIVE at the end of the event.	Four Under 40 winners & the Young Professional of the Year are recognized at the Chamber's Celebration of Excellence.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations are open to the public and may be submitted by individuals, businesses, or community organizations. Self-nominations are accepted. Applicants do NOT have to be members of WAVE or be Chamber members. Nominations must be completed and submitted by Friday, July 12, 2024.

JUDGING PROCESS

All applications will be reviewed in July by an anonymous panel of judges comprised of Chamber representatives, WAVE members, and community leaders. Judges will evaluate each nominee based on the criteria on the first page. The judging committee will name four finalists, which will be publicized in August.

AWARD RECOGNITION

- Each winner will be featured in a news story and will receive a personalized award at the Four Under 40 Awards Gala.
- Winners will receive \$500 for the charity of their choice. The Young Professional of the Year will receive \$1,000 for their charity.
- Four Under 40 winners will also receive recognition at the Chamber's Celebration of Excellence in November.

FAQ

- **Who can submit a nomination?** Nominations are open to the public. Individuals can nominate themselves.
- **Do you have to be a WAVE or Chamber member to apply?** No, nominations are open to the public.
- **How many award winners are there?** Four individuals will receive a Four Under 40 Award. Out of these four winners, one individual will be named the "Young Professional of the Year" and will receive additional recognition. The YPY will be announced live at the end of the Awards Gala.
- **Who can attend the Four Under 40 Awards Gala?** This event is open to the public. You do not have to be a member of WAVE or a Chamber member to attend. You do not need to be under 40 to attend—all are welcome.