

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

2014 Young Professionals show leadership and give back to community

By Mary Coffman

This is the seventh year the Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business has sought out outstanding professionals and business leaders to include in this Young Professionals edition.

We received many great nominations this year and it was difficult for the judges to pare the deep pool of talented individuals who applied.

But we think the choices represent the top young leaders and visionaries in the community.

Some of the finalists are Mid-Columbia natives who left, went to college, got married and returned home to raise their families.

Others are transplants who came to the community for opportunities and grew to love it.

While they are a career and goal-oriented group, they all look for balance and place their families at the top of their priority lists.

They also seek ways to give back to the community, serve others and improve the quality of life here through community service.

We hope our Young Professionals section will encourage mentoring and

inspire others to become risk takers and community advocates, regardless of age.

A special thanks goes out to Rich Breshears of Breshears Photography and Forte Studios in Kennewick for providing beautiful environmental portraits of the Tri-Cities Area Journal of Business 2014 Young Professionals.



Photo courtesy of Rich Breshears of Breshears Photography.

Byron MARTIN

Title: Owner, Teknologize.

Education: Bachelor's degree in Spanish and a minor in English from Brigham Young University.

Family: Married with five children, which range in age from 4 months to 12 years old, chickens and a rabbit.

How long in the Tri-Cities: Nine years.

What brought you here: My wife and I wanted to be closer to family. We had both graduated college and had jobs away from where we grew up.

How he got started: I saw that most technology support companies were based on reacting to problems — something had to break first. I wanted to prevent issues from happening in the first place, so I built a progressive and modern technology support model.

Business philosophy: I work to live, not live to work. I work hard so I can play hard and spend time with my family.

Life philosophy: It's important to have purpose and meaning in life. For me, that's the relationships I develop with family, friends and community. What good are we unless we do good for others.

Lifetime goals: I want to be able to travel and live in a foreign country, and serve a mission for my church. Hopefully, I will raise some kids who are productive members of society.

Community service: Formerly served on the City of West Richland Economic Development Board and Planning Commission. I am now on the West Richland City Council.

How he stays competitive: It's a constant state of learning and planning. I'm always

reading, going to trainings, participating in user groups and traveling to other cities meeting with companies like mine to learn from them.

Biggest mentor: I'd have to say my dad has been my biggest mentor. As a business owner, he's been able to share with me the wisdom he's gathered over 35 years in business.

Toughest career decision: Starting Teknologize. I had started another business prior to Teknologize and sold it after three years. I had to think long and hard about starting another business from scratch. I already knew first hand the challenges I would face.

Biggest regret: Not starting Teknologize sooner. It's been tons of fun and great experience. I drug my feet in launching the company, worried about all the unknowns and fear of failure.

Missed opportunity: Not keeping up with music lessons. I'd love to be able to play the piano or some other music instrument.

What he likes most about his job: I love working and helping people. It's great to see how using technology can improve lives and business while at the same time avoiding frustrations and challenges.

Dream job: I'd be a farmer in the middle of nowhere living off the land. Or I would be a real estate mogul and own a bunch of hotels.

Reality television show he'd like to be on: The Amazing Race.

Dream vacation: Machu Pichu Peru. I love the adventure, history and mystery surrounding it.

Favorite gadget: GoPro Hero camera.