

30 UNDER 30

Words by Jake Bullinger, Marjorie Clark, Natalie Deford, Dylan Foreman, Lauren Foster, Joanna Kresge, and Karen Miller. Photos by Rachel Coward.

Passionate. Philanthropic. Energetic.

We asked our readers one simple question: What professionals under the age of 30 are doing great things on the Eastside? You responded in force – and gave us more names than we could fit in the pages of an entire magazine. So we debated and decided. After culling from the dozens upon dozens of submissions, *425 Business* presents to you our 2016 class of 30 Under 30 honorees.

Each one is ambitious, goal-oriented, and passionate. We predict great things for the future of the Eastside.

Greg Prescott, 28

Director of talent management, Columbia Hospitality

HOMETOWN

Issaquah

RESIDENCE

Issaquah

FIRST JOB

Banquet house person, Sahalee Country Club

EDUCATION

Washington State University, bachelor's in hospitality business management

BEST ADVICE HE EVER RECEIVED

"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather a lack of will." – Vince Lombardi

THEME SONG

"Home Town" by Eric Church

Greg Prescott has a big job overseeing Columbia Hospitality's recruiting, training, and development. He joined the company in 2011 as the food and beverage manager at Salish Lodge and Spa, and now recruiting is his priority.

"I love being a recruiter because there is nothing more rewarding than helping someone find a job," Prescott said. "That job might put food on the table, fund a college education, or help someone find their passion in life. While recruiters sometimes get a bad rap, my No. 1 priority is to develop phenomenal people so that exceptional experiences can be created for them."





Ben Smith, 27

Food and beverage manager, Salish Lodge and Spa

HOMETOWN

Kelso

RESIDENCE

Seattle

FIRST JOB

Dishwasher

EDUCATION

Washington State University, bachelor's in wine business management; Court of Master Sommeliers, introductory sommelier certification

BEST ADVICE HE EVER RECEIVED

Work smarter, not harder. — Smith's father

THEME SONG

"Superfly" by Curtis Mayfield

SUPERPOWER

Bottomless stomach

Ben Smith frequently thinks about the advice his father once gave him: Work smarter, not harder. He applies this advice to his job as the food and beverage manager at Salish Lodge, but he's certainly motivated to work hard at the high-end resort. "Hospitality is where I'm meant to be," he said. "I love providing people with special and memorable experiences, whether I am at work or at home."

Smith likes to keep busy, and listens to music throughout the day to keep him inspired and focused. Wine is his business and his hobby, so Smith tastes wine both at work and off the clock. He also enjoys snowboarding, watching sports, cooking, and attending concerts.

He says his first job as a dishwasher is how he learned to love the fast-pace atmosphere of the restaurant business and to appreciate the people who work in it.

Smith supports Salish's partnership with Camp Korey and spends his volunteer hours helping families deal with the stress of childhood illnesses. — ND



Matt Heikkila, 29

Executive chef, Salish Lodge and Spa

HOMETOWN

Snoqualmie

RESIDENCE

Snoqualmie

FIRST JOB

Assistant in a photography studio

EDUCATION

Whatcom Community College, associate of arts and sciences

BEST ADVICE HE EVER RECEIVED

Learn from everyone I work with, no matter what position they're in. — Heikkila's former boss

SUPERPOWER

Flying

Matt Heikkila first pursued a career in computer science, but eventually found himself needing a more creative profession. So after graduating college, Heikkila picked up cooking, found that creativity he was craving, and immediately fell in love with the craft. Heikkila's passion for cooking grew, and he eventually turned his hobby into a career.

Today, Heikkila helps foster the Snoqualmie resort's partnership with Camp Korey, an Eastside nonprofit that offers leadership camps for kids with severe medical conditions. The partnership is one of the things Heikkila is most proud of.

"It brings me a lot of joy to be able to give back to the surrounding community while doing what I love. Some of my favorite memories of the past few years have been gardening with the incredible people that make that place run." — KM