

40 UNDER FORTY

Julie Samuels

Age: 32
Current job: Major gifts officer
Employer: High Point Regional Health System
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Excerpt from nomination: "She is a shining role model and educator for many youth on the benefits of giving back."

(She) is mission driven and cares deeply for her community and the people who benefit from the funds she is raising."

Education: Bachelor's degree, human relations, and master's, public administration, both from High Point University
What three adjectives best describe you? Practical, compassionate, resourceful
Greatest career achievement? Developing a vehicle in High Point by which



High Point Regional is able to go above and beyond patient and family expectations by way of the Pink Ribbon Luncheon, a celebration each May to raise money, awareness and help our community friends through their journey with cancer.

Greatest career disappointment? Knowing there are more people we can help
What is the Triad's greatest challenge? Coordinated efforts in finding solutions to economic and social challenges
What is the Triad's greatest selling point? Great schools, wonderful restaurants, a central location in the state and Southern hospitality
Where is your favorite place to take out-of-town guests? Shopping in Greensboro and Winston-Salem, through downtown High Point and finishing up at the String and Splinter Club for a great dinner
When I'm not working, I'm starting home projects or traveling to the beach.
As a youth, what was your first job? Counselor at the YMCA Camp Pioneer

Ryan Shell

Age: 29
Current job: Marketing communications supervisor
Employer: Truliant Federal Credit Union
Address: 3200 Truliant Way, Winston-Salem 27103
Phone: (336) 659-1955
E-mail: ryan.shell@truliantfcu.org
Excerpt from nomination: Nomination noted how Shell has increased

earned media for the credit union 260 percent and increased advertising awareness by 7 percent, along with collaborating on two Addy Award-winning TV spots.
Education: Bachelor's degree, marketing, UNC-Greensboro
What three adjectives best describe you? Driven, compassionate, innovative
Greatest career achievement? I was in the car with my mother when I was 13 and while listening to the radio I said, 'I



want to be a radio DJ when I get older. I started working in radio at 17. I garnered my first full time radio show on 107.5 KZL just after turning 20. I hosted the night show (7 -11) as JJ McCain for six years I learned that you have to create opportunities for yourself; they don't simply come knocking.

Most meaningful volunteer activity? Volunteered at a homeless shelter when I was 11 years old, and that single experience shaped my outlook on the homeless and gave me a sense of compassion for those less fortunate.
When I'm not working, I'm working on GreensboroPolitics.com (my local politics blog), volunteering, traveling, cycling
Best advice you've ever received? From a former boss, 'Shell, sometimes man, you've just gotta eat crow.'
Who would make the guest list at your dream dinner party? Lance Armstrong, Andy Griffith, Barack Obama, Ronald Reagan, friends and family.
If you had to pick another job or career, what would it be? TV news anchor

Jeff Thigpen

Age: 39
Current job: Register of Deeds
Employer: Guilford County
Address: 201. S. Eugene St., Greensboro 27403
Phone: (336) 641-3239
E-mail: jthigpe@co.guilford.nc.us
Excerpt from nomination: Nomination noted Thigpen's advocacy as a county commissioner for

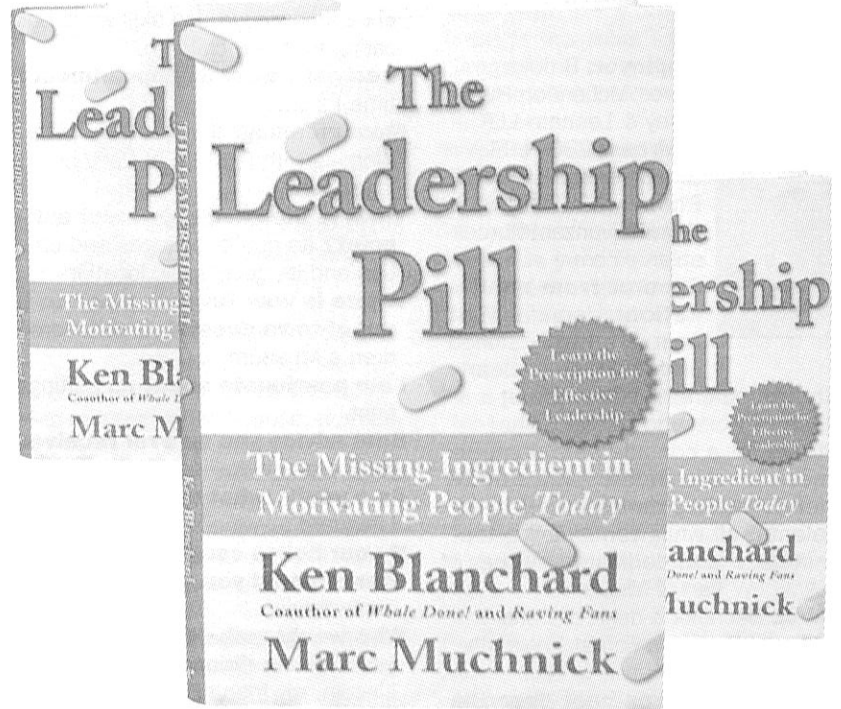
education and regional transportation, his civic engagement on racial reconciliation and community issues and how "as register of deeds, he has been innovative, made technology improvements and improved customer service."

Education: Bachelor's degrees, political science and justice and policy studies, Guilford College; master's degree, public affairs, UNC-Greensboro
What three adjectives best describe you? Progressive, down-to-earth, friendly



Most meaningful volunteer activity? Being a mediator is really cool.
What is the Triad's greatest challenge? Moving beyond the narrowness of old mindsets and paradigms in every sector and recognizing this is a unique moment in history. We are called to be present, aware and fully engaged.
Best advice you've ever received? As a commissioner, Bob Landreth told me three things you don't mess around with 1) People's children 2) their animals, or 3) their spouses!
As a youth, what was your first job? Cropped tobacco in Pender County
If your house caught on fire, what two items would you grab? Aiden's Blues Clues DVD and Elle's cinnamon swirlly buns
Who would make the guest list at your dream dinner party? Willie Nelson, Barack Obama, Bono with Grey Johnston on drums, Loggie Meachum singin' blue, DJ Lance Rock from Yo Gabba Gabba, Randy and Grace Johnston, Jesus, Mohammed, and Abraham, Tiger Woods, Dale Jr. And I think it would be a barbecue at the Old Batsons Farm near Burgaw. Want to come?

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By Ken Blanchard and Marc Muchnick

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