

NEWS RELEASE

County Executive Coulter Announces

Oakland Together 40 Under 40 Class of 2026

- Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter today announced the 2026 class of Oakland Together 40 Under 40, recognizing professionals younger than 40 who are having meaningful impact through leadership, innovation and service.
- The 2026 class was revealed with the help of 2025 honoree and sportscaster Brad Galli, who joined the county executive in a special announcement video highlighting this year's winners.
- Now in its 14th year, the Oakland Together 40 Under 40 program celebrates dynamic leaders who live or work in Oakland County and are helping move the region forward.

May 4, 2026, Pontiac, Mich. – Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter, joined by sportscaster and 2025 honoree Brad Galli, announced today the Oakland Together 40 Under 40 Class of 2026, recognizing 40 emerging leaders who are driving positive change across Oakland County and throughout our region.

This year's class was unveiled in a special video announcement featuring Coulter and 2025 honoree Brad Galli, underscoring the program's growing network of influential leaders and its continued momentum in spotlighting the county's rising talent.

"Each year, this program highlights the very best of our young leaders who are making a difference today and helping to build a stronger future for all of us," Coulter said, "And it shows the incredible depth of talent and innovation that exists across Oakland County."

Selected by a committee of community leaders and county officials, the Class of 2026 includes professionals from a wide range of industries, including business, law, public service, education, nonprofit leadership and the arts. Throughout the year, honorees will participate in events designed to foster collaboration, connection and continued community impact. All live or work in Oakland County.

Complete list of the Oakland Together 40 Under 40 Class of 2026:

- **Fernando Bales** of Pontiac, Chief Product Officer of Citizen Robotics

- **Cescily Barnes** of Farmington Hills, Public Health Project Leader for the Detroit Health Department
- **Alexandria Bingham** of Waterford, City Clerk for the City of Birmingham
- **Nicholas Blackmond** of Grosse Pointe Woods, Quality Improvement Manager at the Dr. Gary Burnstein Community Health Clinic in Pontiac
- **Jamar Bray** of Southfield, Assistant Economic Vitality Manager for the City of Pontiac
- **Cristia Brockway** of Livonia, Economic Development Director for City of Farmington Hills
- **Kimberly S. Buddin** of Novi, Senior Policy Counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union
- **Brynn Cooksey** of Belleville, Owner of Air Doctors Heating and Cooling and HVAC U in Southfield
- **Bruno Alejandro Olvera Diaz** of Detroit, Director of Diversity Supplier Development at Stellantis in Auburn Hills
- **Kanika Ferency** of Rochester, Senior Assistant Prosecuting Attorney at the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office
- **Mike Greene** of Royal Oak, City Administrator for the City of Lathrup Village
- **Dr. Reda Jaber** of Bloomfield Hills, Director of Enterprise Innovation at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
- **Shweta Kapur, Ph. D.**, of Troy, Visiting Assistant Professor at Oakland University
- **Ashley Kemp-Watkins** of Farmington, Senior Analyst for Workforce, Training and Economic Development at Magna Services of America, Inc.
- **Aaron R. Martinez** of Novi, Attorney at the Law Offices of Jason Waechter and Novi City Councilman
- **Amanda May** of Madison Heights, Chief Behavioral Health Officer at Honor Community Health
- **Sam Miller** of Huntington Woods, Deputy Chief of Investigations for the Michigan Department of Attorney General
- **Emily Mueller** of Farmington Hills, Director of Community Investments for United Way for Southeastern Michigan
- **Emad Nawasreh** of Bloomfield Hills, CEO of Cyber Firm Solutions
- **Christopher Okoye** of Novi, CEO and Founder of Chinedu and Associates, Vice President of ICare Home Help
- **Katie Chaka Parks, Ph.D.**, of Oakland Township, Director of Education at The Zekelman Holocaust Center
- **Jody Paulan** of Waterford, Project Manager/Senior Business Development Analyst for NorthStar Clean Energy
- **Sara Pitchford** of Hazel Park, Clinical Mental Health Therapist at Nature's Playhouse
- **Melanie Plank** of Brighton, Owner and Instructor of Play and Grow in Milford
- **Gisele Poole** of Waterford, Director of Quality & Data at Community Housing Network
- **Monica Rattee** of Hazel Park, Bookkeeper/Event Coordinator for Hazel Park Promise Zone
- **Davida Reed** of Pontiac, Owner of Divine Twenty Six
- **Judge Kwamé L. Rowe** of Pontiac, Judge of the Oakland County Circuit Court
- **Jake Serwer** of Bloomfield Hills, Founder & CEO of Espresso Public Relations LLC

- **Paul Shkreli** of Lake Orion, Attorney at Shkreli Legal PLLC
- **Andrew Skandalaris** of Clarkston, Partner and Founder of Quantum Services Group, an Oakland County–based technology services company
- **Angelina M. Sulaka** of Franklin, Attorney and Chief of Court Unit Security Branch for the Administrative Office of the United States Courts
- **Art Thompson III** of New Hudson, Chief Information Officer for City of Detroit
- **Raghavender Tummala** of South Lyon, EV Safety Subject Matter Expert for General Motors
- **Ashley R. Turner** of Highland, Attorney at Patrick and Associates, PLLC
- **Adrian J. Walker** of Royal Oak, Regional Manager of Corporate & Government Affairs at DTE
- **Kory Woods** of Pontiac, Detroit Lions Beat Reporter for MLive
- **Joann Wrobel** of Birmingham, Public Health Nutrition Supervisor at the Oakland County Health Division
- **Chantelle S. Yancy, Ph. D.**, of Troy, Supervisor of Wellness and Community Engagement at Troy School District
- **Zach Zuchowicz** of Waterford, DEI and Community Engagement Coordinator for Oakland County Parks

Highlighted honorees:

Ashley Kemp-Watkins is a dynamic workforce and economic development leader who has built an impressive career at Magna Services of America, Inc., advancing from production roles to a senior analyst position, where she now helps shape strategy across North America. She manages a \$54 million incentive portfolio and has secured millions in workforce training investments, directly supporting the upskilling of more than 6,000 employees each year. Known for her ability to bridge industry, government and education, she has cultivated partnerships that expand talent pipelines and strengthen regional economic growth. A certified grant professional and recognized industry voice, she has earned honors including Automotive News Rising Star and regularly shares her expertise at major workforce development forums. Through her leadership, mentorship and commitment to inclusive talent development, Kemp-Watkins is making a lasting impact on both the business community and the future workforce in Michigan.

Aaron Martinez is an accomplished attorney, public servant and community leader who has quickly built a distinguished career spanning law, government, and civic engagement. A cum laude graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, he has successfully litigated complex cases across Michigan, including serving as associate trial counsel on a historic \$27.5 million jury verdict and representing more than 12,000 voters in a high-profile constitutional case. In 2025, he made history as the first Latino elected to the Novi City Council, where he now helps shape local policy and infrastructure decisions. Martinez’s commitment to public service is further reflected in his work with the Michigan Department of Attorney General, his leadership in professional legal organizations and his longstanding involvement in community and political initiatives. Through his advocacy, leadership and dedication to expanding access to justice and representation, Martinez continues to make a meaningful impact across Oakland County.

Amanda May, a licensed master social worker, is a transformative behavioral health leader whose career has focused on expanding access to quality integrated mental health care across Michigan. As chief behavioral health officer at Honor Community Health, she leads clinical strategy and program development for a federally qualified health center, advancing innovative, evidence-based care for underserved communities. Previously, she held multiple leadership roles at Henry Ford Health, where she helped scale the Collaborative Care Model across more than 50 clinics, launched virtual behavioral health services and drove systemwide improvements in suicide prevention and patient outcomes. Known for building high-performing teams and sustainable care models, she has also developed training programs and clinical frameworks adopted at both the state and national levels. Through her leadership, advocacy and commitment to whole-person care, May is making a profound impact on community health and the future of behavioral health services.

Judge Kwamé L. Rowe is a respected jurist and former prosecutor whose career reflects a deep commitment to justice, public safety and community engagement in Oakland County. Currently serving on the Oakland County Circuit Court, including in the Adult Treatment Court focused on men's mental health and sobriety, he brings a balanced, rehabilitative approach to the bench. Prior to his judicial role, Rowe prosecuted complex cases ranging from narcotics and human trafficking to child welfare, earning recognition for both his legal skill and dedication to protecting vulnerable populations. Beyond the courtroom, he is an active mentor, educator and speaker, guiding aspiring attorneys and engaging young people through outreach programs across the region. Through his service, leadership and advocacy, Rowe continues to strengthen the justice system while making a meaningful and lasting impact on the Pontiac community.

For more information about Oakland Together 40 Under 40, visit www.oakgov.com/40under40.