

Alumni Make a *Comeback*



On Friday, October 20th, United Way Youth Venture hosted their annual Fall Kick-Off event where 335 students (or “Venturers”) from 14 different schools across North Central Massachusetts came to the Mount Wachusett Community College campus in Gardner, MA to engage in a day of fun, civic learning, and recognition of their inspiring accomplishments.



Pictured from left to right: Lauren Wilkins, Luke Cardwell, and Zayna Basma

Also in attendance were three alumni of the UWYV program, who were invited to share their insights in a “Venturer of the Future”

alumni panel presentation, and to present awards to current Venturers who have made outstanding impacts in their communities.

Zayna Basma, alumna of Parker Charter Essential School and founder of the Venture Team *Goals for Nets*, presented the Middle School Emerging Leaders Award to the Venture Team *H.O.T.C.* (or *Helping Out The Community*) from Sky View Middle School.



Alumni presenters with H.O.T.C., recipients of 2017 Middle School Emerging Leaders Award

Luke Cardwell, alumnus of Leominster High School and co-founder of the Venture Team [L.E.A.D.](#) (or *Let's Empower, Advocate, and Do*), presented the High School Emerging Leaders Award to the Venture Team *Karate for Kids* from Fitchburg high School.



Alumni presenters with Holiday Spreaders, recipients of 2017 Changemakers of the Year Award



Alumni presenters with Karate for Kids, recipients of 2017 High School Emerging Leaders Award

And Lauren Wilkins, fellow alumna of Leominster High School and co-founder of the Venture Team [L.E.A.D.](#), presented the Changemakers of the Year award to the Venture Team [Holiday Spreaders](#) from Leominster High School.

Alumni presence at the 2017 Fall Kick-Off was the first public expression of UWYV's newly-introduced mission to re-engage alumni into the organization as leaders, role-models, and mentors within the Youth Venture Community.

Learn more about this endeavor by reading about the UWYV Alumni Advisory Team [here!](#)

*If you are a UWYV Alumni who is interested in **joining** the Alumni Advisory Team, [click here!](#)*