

The NEWS Recognizes the Top 40 Under 40

Next generation of HVAC professionals will lead the industry into the future

Most everyone in the HVAC industry has heard the stats about the “graying” of the industry and the lack of younger individuals choosing HVAC as a career. It’s a real issue, and one that is continuously being addressed by those in the industry.

However, it’s sometimes easy to forget there are a lot of younger individuals doing a lot of great things in the HVAC industry. You can’t go to an industry meeting without seeing some of the younger generation soaking up the HVAC knowledge.

From the young contractor running his first business to the vice president at a distributor, the industry has a lot of young talent on all levels of the industry. The NEWS wanted to highlight these individuals with a list of 40 HVAC professionals under 40 years of age who are accomplishing great things in their respective positions. We asked our readers to nominate the best of the best and, indeed, they did. We received 125 entries, and picking the top 40 was incredibly difficult.

We opened up the contest to all aspects of the HVAC industry, and we received a diverse group of nominations. All areas of the industry are represented, including contractors, distributors, educators, engineers, service techs, and any other position you can think of in the industry.

Inside, there are brief write-ups on each person who made the list. And, while the stories of how they reached the HVAC industry vary greatly, the common denominator is that they love the field and their careers. The members of this list all work hard, think about the big picture, and have the ability to challenge the way things have always been done.

“I realize I am partial, but I think this is a great list. It really highlights some of the best and the brightest coming up in the HVAC industry,” said Kyle Gargaro, editor-in-chief, The NEWS. “Sometimes we forget just how much young talent the HVAC industry has in it.”

While certainly hundreds could have been highlighted, we needed to choose 40. Continue scrolling down see who made this year’s list and who will be leading the trade into the future.

James Sweetman



Company: [Consolidated Refrigerant Solutions](#)

Title: President

Age: 37

Jim Sweetman was a light commercial service tech in the early 2000s, and he was frustrated by the time and expense involved in recovering refrigerant. Where there was a problem, Sweetman saw an opportunity, and, in 2006, he started Consolidated Refrigerant Solutions. Instead of going through the distributor, the business deals directly with the contractor.

“I was a mechanic out in the field and it was a nuisance,” Sweetman said. “We’re a refrigerant reclamation facility, but I look at us as a service company. We only work with contractors. We swap out their recovery cylinders on-site.”

Sweetman is also responsible for developing the Reclamation Data Management System proprietary software that is available online for the company’s contractor clients.

“My personal goal, and that of our staff, is to build a truly enduring company with unique perspectives and ideas that will be recognized for their one-of-a-kind solutions and services,” Sweetman said.