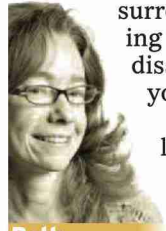


## Rising young leaders raise hope for region's future

**L**iving in SouthCoast and the Southeastern Massachusetts region can sometimes be a yo-yo-like experience. Some days the degree of promise surrounding us is staggering and at other times the disappointment can break your heart.



**Beth PERDUE**  
Business Matters

For anyone in that latter category, I encourage you to attend the next New England Business Bulletin awards ceremony for an immediate dose of

hope about the region's future.

This year's event, the third annual, was held Tuesday morning at The Standard-Times building in New Bedford, bringing together a diverse group of young professionals recognized for both their business achievements and dedication to the community.

All under the age of 40, the 2011 Top Young Professionals are a mix of entrepreneurs, business owners, finance and legal professionals, and nonprofit leaders in Southeastern Massachusetts who were nominated for the award from within the community.

Individually, each has made a difference in the region, but collectively is where they make their biggest impact. It's hard to hear the many community contributions from these professionals, or read them as I did while handing out awards, without feeling eager for the future that their leadership will create.

This year's ceremony was unique

in that it also included participation from other area organizations who are also striving to grow the region's leadership. One superb example is the Leadership SouthCoast program which annually brings together aspiring leaders to participate in a thought-provoking, nine-month community leadership program.

Another is the promising new SouthCoast Young Professionals Network being launched at 4:30 p.m. today at the Buttonwood Park Zoo Education Center by the New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce.

If, in this late winter season, you can't wait until next year for the next NEBB awards ceremony, stop by the chamber event and meet some of these young people.

The 2011 award recipients are: Robyn Branco, New Bedford Area Chamber of Commerce; Chad Brubaker, Nery Corporation; Adrian Bryce Diorio, Bryce Organic Skin Care; Jennifer Downing, Garfield Foundation; Darren Fredette, Tetrault Insurance; Paul Kessimian, Partridge Snow & Hahn; Steven Martins, City of New Bedford; Kevin McNally, Interactive Palette; Erin Monast, Pregnancy, Birth & Beyond; Athena Mota, YWCA Southeastern MA; Robert Savage, Wells Fargo Advisors, LLC; Kim Wilmot, Schwartz Center for Children, and William Viveiros, Table 8 restaurant.

*Beth Perdue is editor of the New England Business Bulletin. To learn more about individual award recipients, see the current issue of The New England Business Bulletin or visit [www.nebulletin.com](http://www.nebulletin.com).*

