

Long Island Business News

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Dowd: Millennials – a basket of desirables

By: Joe Dowd September 15, 2016

While the national political debate rages over which basket we belong in I'd like to present a golden platter of desirables.

A much maligned generation – unfairly so, I might add – is coming into their own and we shouldn't be surprised to learn that these young men and women are more than mere kids who are wizards at computer games.

Millennials are coming of age and the evidence is all over Long Island. They are being sought after for their skills, as consumers and homeowners and, even, community leadership. And they're delivering.

This week, Long Island Business News is honoring 55 of these up-and-coming stars at our first-annual Millennial Awards Dinner and with the special section inside this edition of the newspaper.

The special section is filled with remarkable stories about exceptional young people.

One of them is John Hogan, vice president of Oxford Solutions, a cyber security firm, and also the chairman of the Viscardi Advisory Council at The Viscardi Center.

"Most millennials dream big and strive to accomplish their goals," he said. "One thing most people don't know about millennials is that they have a sense of duty to their community."

Actually, that's more obvious than many young people know. The generation is more diverse, more open-minded and more focused than at least the two that preceded them. As a group, they save their money and want to buy homes. Mostly, they are committed to public service in a way that puts baby boomers to shame, myself included.

Millennials don't presume it's all about them and envision a world in the near future that will be more inclusive, more accepting and much less angry.

These attributes make good prospects for buying homes and setting down roots; there is U.S. Census data which suggests millennials are shifting away from the city and moving to the suburbs. That could be a big plus for Long Island.

David Oksenhorn, 35, who has already risen to manager at Marcum LLC, said, "People often think of millennials as entitled and lazy. However I as well as many of my colleagues are hard-working and motivated."

I couldn't agree more. They are a generation who grew up with buildings blowing up on TV and years of unending war. They watched their parents struggle in the Great Recession and realized there are no sure things. They are burdened with college debt, and yet they still fight on.

The future looks alright to me.