

Chamber looks to IGNITE dinner

The Citizen staff report

This year's holiday party at the Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce will welcome a number of new — and younger — faces to the mix.

IGNITE, a new program of the chamber geared toward young professionals, will be launched at the annual fete.

IGNITE, which stands for Invest, Grow, Network, Inspire, Teach, Empower, is an effort by

the chamber to get young professionals more involved in the community, not just in a social opportunities, but in business and philanthropic endeavors as well.

The group grew out of interest and momentum from the 40 Below Summit for young professionals held last month in Syracuse, said Terri Bridenbaker, executive director of the chamber. While they have organized under the chamber, IGNITE will not have its official unveiling until 2005.

"The group is very committed. They're excited and motivated. It's such a valuable program for the area," Bridenbaker said.

They will be sponsoring a get-together at Curley's Restaurant after the chamber holiday party Wednesday. IGNITE invites all young professionals to attend both events.

To RSVP to the holiday party, or if you'd like more information, call the chamber at 252-7291.

If you go

What: Cayuga County Chamber of Commerce Holiday Party and IGNITE Young Professionals afterparty

When: Wednesday, Dec. 8, 5 to 7 p.m., afterparty at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Holiday Party at Chamber of Commerce, IGNITE afterparty at Curley's Restaurant

For more information, or to RSVP, call the chamber