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FEATURED

## Princeton Area Chamber adds assistant director as staff member

Emma Eidsvoog Jul 25, 2019



Kim Young remembers playing at Mark Park's playground while her dad batted in the Rum River Festival softball tournament.

This summer, at the 2019 Rum River Festival, Young helped organize activities during a later version of popular festival as the new assistant director of the Princeton Area Chamber of Commerce.

At the beginning of the year, Young was approached by Karen Michels, executive director of the Princeton Chamber of Commerce, who believed Young had all the right qualifications for an assistant job which would include helping the chamber go paperless, auditing ducks for the Lucky Duck race, and organizing Princeton's fall Chili Fest.

"It seemed like a good fit and like something I could do," Young said. Along with working part-time at the Chamber, she runs Grant



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Assist Consulting which provides grant consulting for Princeton schools.

Commerce. Sorting and auditing ducks for the Lucky Duck race was one of her duties.

Submitted Photo

Young graduated from Princeton High School in 1988 and attended St. Cloud State University where she received her bachelor's degree in journalism and later her master's degree in English.

She moved to Colorado to continue her education at the University of Northern Colorado where she graduated in 1999.

In 2000, she moved to North Branch, where she lived for five years before returning to her hometown of Princeton with her husband, Chad, and three sons, Ryan, Caleb and Adam.

"Princeton was a great place to grow up, and I'm glad to be raising my family here too," Young said.

When not at work, she can be found at her sons' high school track and cross country meets and soccer games.

On June 8, the morning of the Rum River Festival, she cheered on her son Ryan, the first-place finisher of the festival's 5K race.

Young jumped right into work for the festival which required "a lot of volunteers and manpower," she said.

With her organizational skills the festival turned out to be a fun and successful day complete with rubber duck races, parade floats and coronations.

Young said she loves the Princeton community and believes everyone should get involved and give something back when it's time to volunteer.

Since moving back to her hometown in 2005, Young has been involved in a myriad of committees and boards such as the Princeton Boys Soccer Booster Club, Friends of Sherburne Wildlife Refuge, and Princeton Youth Basketball Association.

Working with the Princeton Area Chamber, Young is learning how it supports local businesses and the community, she said.

She looks forward to organizing upcoming events, this week's Chamber golf tournament and this fall's Chili Fest.

"I am excited to be here and get out and meet people that I don't know in the community and businesses," she said.

*Emma Eidsvoog is the Union-Times summer news reporting intern.*