

# Up

Erick Crawford



Hunter Faile



Will Hutchins



Britt Wells



# &

# Coming

Lancaster  
County's bright  
homegrown talent

Lancaster County is one of South Carolina's fastest growing counties and along with that comes tremendous opportunities for individuals to reach their highest potential. We have extremely talented community members who have chosen to work and live in the place they've always called home. Let's meet some of these young leaders—local success stories from Lancaster County.

## Erick Crawford, Chief Financial Officer Crawford Funeral Home

**E**rick Crawford, a Lancaster High School graduate, didn't always plan to go into the family business. But his passion for serving his community, as well as his love of family, led Erick right back here to Lancaster. After attending Francis Marion University in Florence, SC, he headed north to New York to the American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service. Now Crawford serves as the Chief Financial Officer at Crawford Funeral Home.

"I love helping people, and I love this community," he says. "The two went hand in hand."

Although no two days are the same with Crawford's job, he says the element of grieving is what is most unique about what he does. "When someone dies, that's one of the most sensitive times for most people," he says. "Being able to comfort someone through that grieving process is unique because everyone reacts differently."

John McCain, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce describes Crawford as one of the busiest and hardest working professionals he knows. "He plays a key role in leading his successful family-owned business in Lancaster and still finds time to give back in major ways to our community," McCain says. "He loves Lancaster County, and it shows in his commitment to service in such organizations as the Chamber of Commerce, currently serving as our Past Board Chairman, member of the Chamber's Diversity Council, and the Lancaster Breakfast Rotary Club, to name a few."

Crawford enjoys sightseeing around the county when he's not at work or serving with one of the many organizations with which he's involved. "My mother was a history teacher, so I've always been a history buff," he says. "I like to go around and investigate and uncover some of the history that Lancaster has to offer."

He hopes to inspire and elevate Lancaster's next generation of leaders, and give them something to look forward to.

"People here do care about family and community, and we all



(Left to Right) Erick Crawford, Adis Glen Crawford, and Glen Crawford of Crawford Funeral Home



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(Left to Right) Kristina Gordon, Chase Graham and Hunter Faile of Nutramax Laboratories



want to give a platform on which to be successful,” he says. “Lancaster truly is a small town with a big heart, and trust me when I say it’s rewarding to give back to the place where you were raised.”

### Hunter Faile, Employee Recruitment Manager Nutramax Laboratories

**B**urford High School graduate Hunter Faile started her higher education journey in Lancaster for the first two years, then transferred to the University of South Carolina Columbia to finish her junior and senior years. At an early age, Hunter was introduced to many key players in the community due to her father, Sheriff Barry Faile.

“This opened a lot of doors for me while I was in school, and I received an internship here at Nutramax,” she says. “My


senior year of college I was working with our human resources department, starting from the bottom. Then before I graduated my senior year, I was offered a full-time position.”


Faile decided to come back home, and after two years went on to get her master’s degree. Now, a little over five years later, she serves as Employee Relations and Recruitment Manager with Nutramax Laboratories.

“I manage a lot of the employee issues that may arise, and I also do performance evaluations,” she says. “Nutramax has been very blessed over the years to continuously grow and manage our recruitment processes, and so we schedule the interviews and work with outside agencies to bring in new employees.”

Nutramax researches, develops and manufactures nutritional products for both people and their pets. They offer manufacturing jobs to graduates straight out of high school, as well as positions such as packaging operators, material

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handlers, and inventory control-type positions. Faile says all of these can be taught on the job with no higher education required.

"Then, we also have roles that require a four-year education or higher," she says, "including marketing people, brand managers, web designers, analytical development specialists, researchers, engineers, and chemists."

Faile says following graduation it was important for her to work at a company that matched her values, and Nutramax – which is a Christian organization – provided a culture that was both friendly and faithful.

"I wanted to be a part of something that I felt was bigger than just the job," she says, "and it makes being an employee so much better knowing that my company gives back to the community and that I get to give back, as well."

"What I like to tell folks is that to make your 'small town' feel like a big place to be, you have to give back to it," she says. "You have to interact with the small businesses here and get involved with organizations like the Chamber of Commerce."

McCain describes Faile as an outstanding young professional on the move. "As a Lancaster County native, Hunter's chosen to begin her career here and embraces the tremendous opportunities available to her," he says. "Without question, she is a rising star and a great example of local talent making a name for herself in a world-class organization."

## Will Hutchins, Vice President *LCI-Lineberger Construction, Inc.*

**A**s an Andrew Jackson High School graduate, Will Hutchins did what many Lancaster students dream about – he got out. But after he received his business degree from the University of South Carolina, Hutchins joined the Navy for five years, and then decided to come back home and join the family business, LCI Lineberger Construction.

"This is my family's company, I grew up in this business, and then I went away," Hutchins says, "But I came back to go to work with my family with Lineberger and to learn the business."

Describing what LCI Lineberger Construction does, Hutchins says, "We build roads and we prepare sites for buildings and commercial buildings. We build pretty much all horizontal, from concrete to asphalt stone, and we even do underground utilities."

Hutchins says jobs at LCI "are kind of wide open." Basic laborers, skilled laborers, equipment operators, and truck drivers are some of the careers available to those not wanting to commit to a four-year degree. There are also engineers, mechanics jobs, parts jobs, in-house human resources, and accounting representatives.

There's no actual "typical day" for Hutchins. "I could be out on a job first thing in the morning, or I could be in the office doing operation items, financials, or dealing with a human resources issue," he says. "No one day is the same;

every day is an adventure."

And that adventure continues when he goes home every day, as well. Will and his wife have a blended family that includes five children, and he enjoys living close to their extended family, as well.

"I grew up in this area, so I still have a lot of friends here," he says. "Even business friends are nice to have. It's hard to get that in a big city if you didn't grow up there and don't have those roots."

Plus, Lancaster County is also an ideal spot to live if you like to travel. With the mountains on one side and the beach on the other – neither with a terribly long drive – Hutchins thinks there's nothing better.

Will is described by McCain as a key decision-maker in his family's business, and another example of someone who could have taken his skills anywhere but chose to stay in Lancaster and help this community grow and prosper.

"As a Navy veteran, Will understands the importance of service, commitment, integrity, and professionalism," says McCain. "He serves as Chair-Elect of the Chamber Board of Directors, and he's making Lancaster County a better place to live, work, and do business."

Because of his experience, Hutchins has a bit of advice for those who decide to leave Lancaster. "If you do need to get out



(Left to Right) Debbie Baker, Brian Bear, and Will Hutchins of LCI-Lineberger





(Left) Britt Wells, OceanaGold Haile Gold Mine Procurement Supervisor  
(Right) OceanaGold's mining truck

of here for a little while, don't be afraid to come back – there are opportunities – well-paying jobs, and careers right here. It's never too late to come back home.”

## Britt Wells, Supervisor of Procurement *OceanaGold Haile Gold Mine*

To say Britt Wells has ties to the Buford community is a bit of an understatement: his mother served as principal and his father was both the football coach and athletic director. He originally had plans to take the education route like his parents and did two years at the community college before transferring to the University of South Carolina.

“I majored in history and was going to get my master's in education, but decided I really didn't want to do that and instead wanted to go a different route,” Wells says. “So I came back to Lancaster and just started looking for what jobs and careers were available here. I knew a few people at OceanaGold, and it seemed like a great place to start.”

Wells now serves as the procurement supervisor at OceanaGold Haile Gold Mine, where he supervises everything that's bought for the gold mining company's Kershaw location.

The company has about 600 employees with all levels of education and experience.

“Some jobs require only a high school diploma, while others need a master's degree in engineering,” he says. “This company employs a broad spectrum of education levels.”

McCain says OceanaGold recognizes Britt's talent and has rewarded him with roles of increased responsibility. “Britt is someone who started his young professional career at full sprint and is still accelerating,” he says. “He's another young leader on the rise here in his home county.”

He was recently recognized as one of Lancaster County's Top 10 Under 40, and McCain says “this honor speaks volumes about his drive, ambition, and abundance of future potential.”

Wells, who was recently married, lives about 20 minutes away from the mine and usually works eight to nine hours a day. He and his wife enjoy traveling, and “don't stay home a whole lot.”

Why did Britt choose to stay in Lancaster County? “It's home to me, it's always going to be home, and I have a tight relationship with both family and friends here,” he says. “There's a lot of opportunities in Lancaster County, but there's always room for improvement, and that's where these upcoming graduates come in.” [LA](#)



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