

ALERT **TOP STORY**

Moving Helena forward: Here are the IR's 20 Under 40 winners for 2019

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The Independent Record's annual 20 Under 40 awards are meant to honor those under age 40 who, through their industry and hard work, are moving the Helena community forward. These awards are not just bestowed by the Independent Record. They are bestowed by the citizens of Helena and the Helena Valley, who nominated each of the honorees.

The Independent Record is again partnering with the Helena Area Chamber of Commerce to host a special luncheon celebrating the winners this year. The luncheon is open to the public and will be held from 11:45 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 25 at the Delta Hotels by Marriott-Helena Colonial. The cost is \$25 per person and tickets are available for purchase online here:

<http://members.helenachamber.com/events/details/20-under-40-luncheon-11342>

Josh Talley, owner, Capital Solutions and Dave's Fencing

Leland and her husband Scott are "Helena kids," she said. They have been married 10 years and in their free time take family camping trips.

"My most important accomplishment," she said, "is my family."

While Leland is not a veteran, she is the proud daughter of a Vietnam veteran.

Adam Clinch, teacher and coach, Capital High School

Adam Clinch, a born and raised Helenan, is always looking for ways to give back to the community that raised him.

Clinch is a math teacher and coach at Capital High School. For him, teaching was the most obvious way to give back and make a better future.

"I probably became a teacher because I like working with people," Clinch said. "Our time here is short and rare. If I can spend that time helping someone better their lives then I want to."

Clinch is a graduate of the University of Montana. He holds master's degrees in education and mathematics. He spent two years teaching at UM before moving back to Helena. When CHS had an opening for a math teacher, the former Bruin jumped at the opportunity. For the past five years, he had taught honors algebra, algebra I and college statistics at CHS. He said the smorgasbord of different classes he teaches helps keep the job interesting.

Never content doing just one job, Clinch also is the soccer coach at CHS. This summer, he is teaching disc golf to middle school students at Carroll College. He has also spent the past five years as a member of the Knowles Teaching Fellows Program, which Clinch described as a way to interconnect ideas about teaching across the United States.

The program has helped Clinch get insight into behind-the-scenes aspects of teaching.

"I love math and wanted to teach it because I think it gets a bad rap," Clinch said. "Humans at their hearts are storytellers. I think if you can make math a story you can find success."

Clinch is fascinated with the theories and concepts behind mathematics. He sees beyond the "number-crunching, algorithm-obsessed, soul-crushing field of high school curriculum" to the history behind mathematics and the people who discovered many of its concepts.

"The moon revolving around the sun obeys the same mathematical equation as an apple falling; an inverse square law," Clinch said. "Mathematics predicted the existence of black holes decades before we observed them within the past year."

Clinch's impact on his students is hard to measure, but he spends time teaching soft skills beyond the scope of math. For him, it's all an effort to make Helena a better place.



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