

01.10 People to Watch in 2010

As we have each and every January, we're again starting the new year off on a very positive note, introducing you to ten extraordinary local individuals under the age of 40 who are making a name for themselves and for Worcester County itself ~ they are athletes, students, activists, entrepreneurs, artists, and more, all working towards making our community a stronger, more united, more vibrant one. Choosing these individuals was not an easy task, and we [happily!] received from you, our readers, so many nominations for other outstanding members of our community. But please join us now in congratulating "The Ten" for their contributions thus far and in looking forward to what this exceptional group is sure to accomplish in the future.



Photo Credit: Robert Hare

Kristin Bates: Owner, gobare Salon

By Leeanne Griffin

Kristin Bates is making Worcester County more beautiful ~ one gorgeous eyelash and perfectly waxed eyebrow at a time.

The 28 year old area native opened gobare, a professional salon in the emerging Canal District specializing in waxing, eyelash extensions and makeup, in early 2009.

"We've had a really good response so far," says Bates. "We've grown faster than expected. From July to September, we received 75 new clients, and we've been steadily growing ever since."

gobare focuses on waxing and lashes because those are the services Bates is most passionate about. She and employee Kristie Lee McCaffrey are Xtreme Lashes eyelash-extension stylists, certified after undergoing what Bates calls a "rigorous training and certification process."

They're the only professionals in the Worcester area working with this system. "People no longer have to drive all the way to Providence or Boston for this service," she said.

Bates was born in Worcester and raised in Shrewsbury. After graduating from UMass-Amherst in 2004 with a marketing degree, she furthered her education at Catherine Hinds Institute of Esthetics in Woburn, completing 1,200 hours of study.

Worcester was the perfect location for her new business, Bates said. "I saw an opportunity that the city didn't yet have," she said. "It's been great to have a dream of mine come true in my birthplace."

She had envisioned opening her salon in a renovated mill, she said, and was thrilled to find the right spot on Harding Street, with high ceilings and large windows. She says she's "very proud" to be a part of the Canal District's renaissance, marked by the opening of new restaurants, bars, clubs and boutiques.

Bates, who is "very protective" of her hometown, says she hopes to become more active in Worcester's community as her business expands.

"Worcester is unique, and it needs to find its own personality and positive force to drive people to come and stay here," she said.

And her advice to the area's young population? "Don't ever assume there's nothing to do in Worcester," she says. "That's just not true. Get out and see what the city has to offer."

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