

2013 Rising Stars

*12 people to watch in the waste and recycling industry
From WRN staff reports*

Waste & Recycling News' RISING★STARS



Patrick Belzberg



Kelley Dennings



Kimberly Grant



Corey Hawkey



Matthew Hupp



Sue Kerr



Richard McCaskill



Robert Mecchi



Marty Metro



Kyle Mowitz



Wesley Salmons



Kristopher Smith

These dozen extraordinary young professionals are the future of our industry. They are the cream of a crop of more than 70 talented individuals nominated for the honor by their co-workers and peers.

The recipients include CEOs, entrepreneurs, activists, leaders and public employees. They have achieved greatness -- and aren't stopping to celebrate.

The two things they all have in common? They are all 45 years old or younger ... and they are all proof that our industry's future is in strong hands.

Richard McCaskill

President & CEO, Recon Recycling LLC

February 26, 2013

Age: 45

Bio: McCaskill founded Recon Recycling with no previous recycling experience, and has since taught himself just about everything there is to know about the industry. Since starting the company in 2007, Recon Recycling has serviced many clients, such as IKEA, the Port of San Diego, The Salvation Army, Goodwill, San Diego Red Cross, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, The History Channel and the House of Blues. A combat veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps, McCaskill used his determination and training from the military to wage a war against waste. He has spent significant time educating veterans, youth and former convicts about the recycling industry. For one year, he taught a weekly class on the business of recycling at Donovan Correctional Facility (San Diego, Calif.) to level one convicts. He also conducted a three-month study in Senegal, Africa, to analyze the waste flow of the community and identify opportunities to harvest recyclable materials, and established Recon Recycling Senegal during his visit. McCaskill plans to expand his operations by creating a new type of recycling container to replace dumpsters.



Married? Kids? Yes. Yes.

When I was a kid, I wanted to grow up and be ... a rich farmer.

Make and model of your cell phone? Samsung Galaxy III.

Make and model of your primary transportation? Chevy Express Cargo Van (still a scavenger at heart).

7 a.m. drink of choice? Fruit juice.

7 p.m. drink of choice? Plum wine and juice mixture.

In 10 years, I'll be ... One of the most efficient recyclers on Earth.

One-sentence advice for other young professionals? You are only two things in this world... useful or useless.

Top item on your bucket list? To become perpetually wealthy.

First website you check every morning (not your company's)? [Waste & Recycling News](#).

How do you cope with stress? Playing the sax.

Favorite quote: "When the ego is lost, limit is lost."