

2025 Judy Garber Rising Star Award

Nickey Kollie was nominated by Chris Herb, President of CEMA

Chris shares, “Nickey plays a critical role in our government advocacy efforts on a range of critical issues including energy policy, environmental regulation, taxation, and workforce development, that directly impact Connecticut’s family-owned heating fuel and motor fuels marketers. In addition to her work at the Capitol, Nickey has been a spokesperson for the industry. She has participated in media interviews to explain how proposed policies impact consumers and small businesses. She also plays a vital role in educating the next generation about energy careers through the Generation Next Energy Pros program, connecting high school students with training and job opportunities in HVAC and renewable liquid fuels. Nickey is a sought-after speaker, having made presentations to respected organizations including the Oil and Energy Service Professionals, Women in Energy, the Propane Gas Association of New England, and Operation Fuel. She also serves as an alternate member of the CT Low-Income Energy Advisory Board, where she advocates energy affordability and effective heating assistance programs. She is an indispensable asset to CT's energy markets.

Nickey has a BBA from Southern Connecticut State University and a master’s in public education from Albertus Magnus College. Outside of CEMA, Nickey serves as the Vice Chair of the Fair Rent Commission in Naugatuck, CT. She also plays a key role in the development of her family’s farm in Africa. In her free time, she enjoys traveling, reading, and enjoying the great outdoors.

Mary Hall, R.W. Beckett and was nominated by co-workers, Alan Wornham and Scott Nicholas. Mary, please join me.

Alan states, “Mary came from a non-industry related position. She took it upon herself to to learn Beckett’s part of the industry but also the effect of today’s fuels on the industry. She is now not only a top salesperson / account manager but also does training on today’s fuels. No matter who you talk to about Mary they all say the same thing, she is responsive, knowledgeable and will go out of her way to get the information they need. She is a member of numerous Oil and Energy Service Professional Chapters, Women in Energy as well as PHCC.

Scott shares, Mary represents the future of our industry. Her drive, professionalism, and generosity of spirit make her an incredible ambassador not just for Beckett, but for all women looking to build a career in energy. We are lucky to have her as part of our industry.

Mary has been with Beckett for just over 2 years. She admits she felt intimidated by her peers during the first few weeks. I'm Beckett's first female hire on the sales team, I

came with zero background in oil heat industry and was joining a long-standing and experienced sales org with nearly 100 years of combined experience in this field—most of the reps I was working alongside had been with Beckett for over 20 years.

Mary shared, “Within 8 months, after joining the sales team which had a combined 100 years of experience, our team drastically changed. A few reps made tough decisions to leave Beckett and move into other roles outside the organization. We were extremely short staffed throughout the majority of 2024. I stepped up to make sure there were no lapses in Beckett's presence at the various conferences and events we have been part of for many years. Many of the events were outside of my assigned territory, but I did not want our customers, who were previously working with long-standing reps to feel like they had no one to reach out to while Beckett was working to backfill their positions. I wanted to show Beckett that I would rise to the occasion, without hesitation, during times of adversity.

Mary graduated from Farmington State and volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters.