

## Renee Younes Recognized at Aging Together's "5 Over 50" Celebration

As the regional manager of the Mason Enterprise Center (MEC)-Fauquier since 2014, **Renee Younes** has been praised for her creative efforts in guiding small business owners to grow their businesses. This past May, she was named the Fauquier recipient of the ninth annual 5 Over 50 Celebration, which honors people over age 50 who demonstrate the extraordinary value older adults hold in our communities.



**Renee Younes**

The celebration was hosted by Aging Together, a partnership-driven agency that helps Virginia's District 9 region (Culpeper, Fauquier, Madison, Orange, and Rappahannock counties) prepare for unprecedented growth in the older population by assuring local residents will have the services and supports needed as they age.

Renee explains she received a call in February, when she learned she had been nominated by Dr. Ethel Bothuel, a local motivational speaker who benefited from Renee's mentoring, and later selected as the Fauquier winner.

"Her smile and pleasant greeting each time one comes into her presence is infectious,"

Dr. Ethel said of Renee in her nomination letter. "She welcomes the opportunity to help others and goes out of her way to help all who need assistance. The thing that I find remarkable about her is the way she follows up to assure that the person has received everything that is needed."

The celebration was held on May 19 via Facebook Live with watch parties in each of the five counties. Renee was asked to choose someone to introduce her, and she selected Ken Lukonis of Strategic Alliance

Consulting, one of many businesses that found success through MEC-Fauquier's services and Renee's guidance. His pre-recorded introduction, as well as a video of Renee, were shown during the event.

"It was really an honor," says Renee, who hadn't been familiar with Aging Together and its alliance of over 150 regional organizations and individuals working in communities and collaborating across agencies, counties, and interest areas. To learn more about the organization, visit [agingtogether.org](http://agingtogether.org).

~ Nancy Griffin-Bonnaire