

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 6, 2018

Contact:

Haily Wells | Director of Communications & Public Relations

Office: 806.761.7005 | Cell: 806.787.8804 | Haily.Wells@lubbockbiz.org

YEA! STUDENTS RECEIVE FUNDING FROM LOCAL INVESTORS

Lubbock, Texas— The Lubbock Chamber Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) students were awarded startup funding to launch their businesses after pitching to a panel of local investors. The investors awarded a total of \$10,000 in startup funds to 14 businesses based on the merit of the idea, the overall pitch and the potential for success.

Kevin Bash, 14-year-old CEO of Kevin Michael Jewelry, was selected as the YEA! Saunders Scholars semifinalist and will advance to the regional competition to compete against YEA! students from around the country for the opportunity to win college scholarships and business startup prize packages. Bash attends Southcrest Christian School and his company specializes in custom designed earrings. The lightweight and biodegradable earrings are made of Polylactic Acid Filament (PLA) and produced on a 3D printer.

Investors included:

- ✓ Joshua Allen, [Allen Financial Agency Inc.](#)
- ✓ Tim Collins, [Collins Stone](#)
- ✓ Casey Doyle, [Casey Carpet One](#)
- ✓ Melissa Grimes, [Studio West](#)
- ✓ Jay Jacobus, [Scarborough Specialties](#)
- ✓ Jonathan Lowe, [Dunkin Donuts/Baskin Robbins](#)
- ✓ Jeff Lowry, [Madera Companies](#)
- ✓ Brandon Mulkey, [Chick-fil-A](#)
- ✓ John Osborne, [Lubbock Economic Development Alliance](#)
- ✓ Taysha Williams, [Texas Tech Innovation Hub](#)

To learn more about the YEA! program presented by [Lubbock Economic Development Alliance](#) (LEDA) and to apply for the 2018-2019 class visit www.LubbockChamber.com/YEA or call the Lubbock Chamber at (806) 761-7000.

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is a 501(C) 3 offering groundbreaking year-long classes that teach middle and high school students how to start and run their own businesses. Throughout the class, students develop business ideas, write business plans, conduct market research, pitch their plans to a panel of investors for startup funds, and launch and run their own, fully formed companies and social movements. The project-based program empowers students to take charge of their futures.

Founded in 2004 at the University of Rochester with support from the Kauffman Foundation, YEA! today serves thousands of students nationwide. In 2011, the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation became a national sponsor and partner of the Academy to help celebrate the spirit of enterprise among today's youth and tomorrow's future leaders.

YEA! bridges the business and educational communities to fulfill its mission of teaching more students how to make a job, not just take a job. YEA! is made possible by The Kauffman Foundation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the E. Philip Saunders Foundation. For more information, visit yeausa.org.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation is dedicated to strengthening America's long-term competitiveness and educating the public on how the free enterprise system improves society and the economy.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations.

Sam's Club

Sam's Club®, a division of Walmart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT), is a leading membership warehouse club offering savings and services to millions of members in 651 clubs in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Sam's Club offers affordable access to innovative services for families and small business owner, including travel, payroll and HR services, protection plans, legal solutions, cash rewards and more. To learn more about time and money with Sam's Club visit

www.SamsClub.com/services.

Lubbock Chamber of Commerce

The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce represents more than 1,900 businesses and over 79,000 employees on the South Plains which accounts for over \$2 billion in annual household earnings in Lubbock and West Texas. Since 1913 the Chamber, as a catalyst for business growth; a convener of leaders and influencers; and a champion for a stronger community, has served as a unified voice of business by actively advocating for a pro-jobs, pro-growth, pro-business climate.

Texas Tech Innovation Hub

The Texas Tech University Innovation Hub at Research Park (the Hub) opened in 2015 to assist in the formation of startup companies relevant to today's local, regional and global economy. Texas Tech is experimenting with new approaches to economic and sustainable development focusing on commercializing and translating research, creating and growing jobs and developing a complete entrepreneurial eco-system with its community, state, and federal partners. Intended as the first of a series of facilities, the Hub, a 40,000 square foot state of the art platinum LEED building equipped with office and wet laboratory facilities is home to robust programs to advance the impact of the region's economic development efforts. The Hub programs support faculty, students, and local entrepreneurs in early and growth stage companies.