

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Young Entrepreneurs Begin Entrepreneurial Journey

Lubbock, Texas— The Lubbock Chamber Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) will hold its first class of the 2018-2019 school year at 4:30 p.m. today at the Texas Tech Innovation Hub. 19 students with a keen drive to launch and run their own real businesses have been accepted into this program.

The after-school program attracts the best and brightest students who will receive hands-on experiential learning that will serve as a foundation for future business endeavors or advanced collegiate business courses.

The following students have been accepted into the 2018-2019 YEA! program:

Ethan Carter, Frenship High School
Joseph Diaz, Monterey High School
Jillian Franco, Trinity Christian Middle School
Ashley Garza, Coronado High School
Alisa Gonzales, Coronado High School
Ava Gutierrez, Talkington School for Young Women Leaders
Daniel Jones, Homeschool
Leah Jones, Homeschool
Rebekkah Kuhn, Heritage Middle School
Diego Minjarez, Homeschool
Natalia Minjarez, Homeschool
Alexus Moore, Talking School for Young Women Leaders
Troy Nations, Frenship High School
Isai Olmos, Smylie Wilson Middle School
Douglas Stone, Smyle Wilson Middle School
Destiny Urrutia, Monterey High School
Sergey West, Lubbock High School
London Williams, Homeschool
Whyana Wilson, Dunbar College Prep Academy

Throughout the year these students will work in close cooperation with local business leaders, community leaders and educators who use their personal experiences to demonstrate how to develop business ideas and objectives, write a business plan, pitch to investors, obtain funding, register with governmental agencies, establish e-commerce and a web presence, and more.

By the end of the academic year, students own and operate fully-formed and functioning businesses, which may be carried after their graduation from the program.

Classes will be held every Tuesday at the Texas Tech Innovation Hub. The program manager is Christine Allen, Lubbock Economic Development Alliance and the class instructors are Elaina Alvarez, Goodwill Industries of Northwest Texas; Keith Patrick, Frenship ISD; Al Wise, Hospice of the South Plains.

The YEA! Lubbock program is presented by [Lubbock Economic Development Alliance](#) (LEDA). To learn more visit www.LubbockChamber.com/YEA or contact program liaison Amy Marquez at Amy.Marquez@lubbockbiz.org.

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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 almost 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.