

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 25, 2018

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Young Entrepreneurs Meet with Local Business Mentors

Lubbock, Texas — The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) an innovative program that guides students through the process of starting their own, real business, announces local business mentors and sponsors for this year’s YEA! class.

The YEA! students have finalized their business idea and have been paired with a mentor from within the Lubbock business community. This industry expert helps the students to fine tune their concept, write a business plan and identify their target audience. Al Wise is the instructor during the pitch session and below is the list of student created companies along with the mentor assigned to each company to help cultivate that business.

<i>YEA! Student(s)</i>	<i>Business Name</i>	<i>Mentor/Company</i>
Aaron Ramos	Design Space	AJ McCleod, StarCare Specialty Health System
Amrita Ramesh	Beachline Motive	Efrain Duarte, Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains, Inc.
Anna Zhao	New Channel	Brian Palomino, Happy State Bank
Brooke Payne	Payne's Pet Pantry	Stephanie Cole, Wells Fargo Bank
Duncan Moore	Fly Over Drones	Treasa Arnold, Exit Realty
Evan Emery	Munick Studios	Lynn Snodgrass, Snapshots Lubbock
Gage Curry	Loadstone Ink	Amaris Garcia, Quick Quack Car Wash
Jacob Luna	Shoe Guard	Jason Atchley, Bacon Heights Baptist Church
Jairon Foster & William Watson	The Shoe Doctors	Dan Baze, Dan Baze Agency
Kevin Bash	Kevin Michaels Jewelry	Melissa Grimes, Studio West
Lauren Lambert	T. Brown Gifts	Ashton Haynes, Ramar Communications
Leyla Aguilar	Bath & Beauty	Ashton Darrow, Lubbock Christian University
Logan Sanders	Volhama	Shannon Spencer, Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains, Inc.
Mccaleb Hart	Decorate to Celebrate	Sammie Gonzales, Suddenlink Communications
Peyton McCloud	Lucky's Best	Calvin Davis / Rey Lops, U.S. Small Business Administration
Spencer Noall	Forge	Gus Khan , Vista College
Sydney Locke	Aquavitam	Miranda Wise, Wisely Organized

Taylor Anderson	Old Lady Yoga	Kathy Timms, Geiger
Vanessa Miller	Nessa's Clutter Clearing	Sheryl Rae Baker, StarCare Specialty Health System
Zia Zhao	Totoro's Treasure	Brenda MacDonald, Studio West (Contractor)

As a non-profit organization, YEA! relies on the generosity of the community, sponsors and people who identify with entrepreneurship and want to help pave the way for future entrepreneurs. Some help the student businesses get off the ground while others provide in-kind support or volunteer their time and services.

This program is presented by Lubbock Economic Development Alliance and other top investors are Texas Tech Innovation Hub at Research Park, Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin Robbins, Madera Companies and Lee Lewis Construction. For a full list of sponsors please visit the [YEA! Lubbock website](#).

During the course of the 30-week program, more than 80 volunteers become involved with YEA! at various levels. From helping teach the basics of business to inviting students to tour their companies, volunteers participate in a variety of capacities. Students work in close cooperation with local business leaders, community leaders and educators who use their personal experiences to demonstrate how to develop ideas and objectives, pitch potential investors, obtain funding, register with governmental agencies, and establish e-commerce and web presence. By the end of the class, students own and operate fully-formed and functioning businesses, which they can carry on after their graduation from the program.

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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 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.