

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Local Young Entrepreneur Advances to Saunders Scholars Competition**

**LUBBOCK, TEXAS** – Daniel Jones, CEO of Fort In A Box was selected by a panel of local business leaders to compete in the Saunders Scholars Competition in Rochester, N.Y. Twelve-year-old Jones, a seventh grade Homeschool student in the Lubbock Chamber Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!), will present his business this morning.

Jones was one of 16 students who pitched their business idea to local investors on Tues., April 2, at the Texas Tech Innovation Hub. The panel awarded startup money to all 16 businesses and Jones was selected as the Saunders Scholars Semi-Finalist.

Hundreds of business and education leaders, students, and parents will gather to hear 53 young entrepreneurs, ages 11-18, from across the nation pitch their business. The young entrepreneurs compete for college scholarships ranging from \$25,000 - \$50,000, an all-expenses paid trip to America's Small Business Summit hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C., and business startup prizes.

The Saunders Scholars Competition is named for and made possible by legendary entrepreneur E. Philip Saunders. Local entrepreneurs, CEOs, and respected community members will judge the competition.

The competition will be live streamed [here](#). More information is available at [www.LubbockChamber.com/YEA](http://www.LubbockChamber.com/YEA) or by contacting the Chamber at (806) 761-7000.

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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 Foundation, YEA! today serves thousands of

with support from the Kauffman 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](http://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](http://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.