

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Contact:**

Norma Ritz Johnson | Executive Vice President  
Office: 806.761.7000 | Cell: 806.441.7726 | [Norma.Johnson@lubbockbiz.org](mailto:Norma.Johnson@lubbockbiz.org)

## Young Entrepreneurs Academy Holds CEO Roundtable

**LUBBOCK, TEXAS** —The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) will hold a CEO Roundtable on Tuesday, Feb. 12, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Texas Tech Innovation Hub.

Local CEOs will support the YEA! students' experiences by sharing their entrepreneurial story. The CEO Roundtable will offer guidance and give direction to the class of 17 young entrepreneurs. The experience will have a significant impact on the students' ability to launch and run their own real business or non-profit organizations.

The featured CEOs of local businesses include: John English (Tailgate Express), Melissa Grimes (Studio West), and Ryan Smith (Stars & Stripes Drive-In Theatre).

The CEO Roundtable is open to the public. Those who wish to attend can RSVP at [LubbockChamber.com](http://LubbockChamber.com) or call (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 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](http://yeausa.org).

### U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation is



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Innovation Hub  
at Research Park

dedicated to strengthening America's



LUBBOCK  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
ALLIANCE

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 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.