

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Twenty Lubbock Area Students Accepted to Young Entrepreneurs Academy**

**LUBBOCK, TEXAS** – The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce will kick off the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) on Tues., Oct. 18, with 20 of the best and brightest middle and high school students with a keen drive to launch and run their own, real businesses.

A competitive application process required students to complete an essay, write responses to short answer questions, submit their school transcripts and a reference, and participate in an in-person interview prior to acceptance into the program.

Throughout the year 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 30-week class, students own and operate fully-formed and functioning businesses, which may be carried after their graduation from the program.

Classes will be held weekly at the Texas Tech Innovation Hub.

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy is a national program offered for students in grades 6 to 12 by chambers of commerce, professional organizations, colleges and universities and public and private middle and high schools. For more information visit [yeausa.org](http://yeausa.org).

Congratulations to the following students on being accepted into the YEA! Lubbock program for 2016-17:

Lauren Beaver, Lubbock Cooper Middle School  
Zachary Branch, Frenship High School  
Micah Burns, Lubbock High School  
Gage Clary, Lubbock High School  
Colin Crawford, Trinity Christian High School  
Areyah Fitch, Talkington School for Young Women Leaders  
Alpha Garcia, Springboard Academics

T' Ambria Garcia, Coronado High School  
Cara Gil, Cavazos Middle School  
Luke Go, Lubbock High School  
Mia Gonzales, Frenship High School  
Austin Holmes, Monterey High School  
Jake Jacobus, Southcrest Christian School  
Ayin Lewis, Campus Collective  
Parker Littlefield, Lubbock Cooper High School  
Keshav Ramesh, Lubbock High School  
Ethan Saldana, Lubbock Cooper High School  
Christopher Vasquez, Hutchinson Middle School  
Blake Vaughn, Frenship Middle School  
Sean Wisdom, Monterey High School

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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 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 over 2,000 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. The Chamber has twice earned the distinguished 5-Star Accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and is a two-time Chamber of the Year recognized by the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

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