

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YEA! Lubbock Students Begin Entrepreneurial Journey

LUBBOCK, TEXAS – The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce kicked off its Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) with orientation on Tues., Oct. 18, at the Texas Tech Innovation Hub with 20 6th through 12th grade students with a keen drive to launch and run their own, real businesses.

YEA! orientation took place during Texas Chamber of Commerce Week as chambers of commerce around the state celebrate the important role that chambers have played in the development of our nation and the state of Texas. The Lubbock Chamber takes pride in its involvement with developing and educating the youth in our community. YEA! is one avenue in which the Chamber has a strong presence in helping develop our future leaders.

YEA! Lubbock 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.

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 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 weekly from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Texas Tech Innovation Hub.

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

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 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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