

youth entrepreneurs®

**News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Media Contact:

Tyler Dustin
For Youth Entrepreneurs
913.660.9658
tdustin@morningstarcomm.com

Students Receive Scholarships for Business Smarts

Youth Entrepreneurs awards more than \$100,000 in scholarships and venture capital grants to high achieving students in Kansas and Missouri

Kansas City, Mo. – At the Youth Entrepreneurs Dreams to Dividends regional events, more than \$100,000 will be awarded to high school students in Kansas and Missouri. The Dreams to Dividends award ceremonies celebrate the best business minds in the program.

Youth Entrepreneurs is a nonprofit organization that teaches entrepreneurship and business fundamentals to students in 28 high schools in Kansas and Missouri.

Scholarships and venture capital grants ranging from \$50-\$8,000 will be awarded to more than 70 Youth Entrepreneurs students. These awards, made available by individual and corporate donors, provide students with the opportunity to continue their business ventures or pursue higher education.

“The students, volunteers, teachers and donors were phenomenal this year,” said Youth Entrepreneurs executive director Kylie Stupka. “Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of donors, many students will be receiving scholarships for higher education and venture capital grants to follow their passion for business.”

Youth Entrepreneurs’ Kansas City Metro Region held its Dreams to Dividends awards ceremony Thursday, May 12 at the River Market Event Place in Kansas City, Mo.

Kansas City Metro Region Scholarship Winners

Shelter Insurance Scholarship

Maria Ramirez- Wyandotte High School

Emporia State University Scholarship

Jacob Rocha- J.C. Harmon High School

Youth Entrepreneurs Scholarships \$1,000

Takirah Carter - J.C. Harmon High School
Heather MacPherson - Bishop Ward High School
Michelle Martinez - Truman High School
Herman Ming - J.C. Harmon High School
Perla Ramos - J.C. Harmon High School
Brittany Riggs (Washington High School)

Business Plan Competition Winners

Awards were also given for winners of the business plan competitions last month. Youth Entrepreneurs students first presented their business plans in classroom competitions. The winners advanced to the regional competition, where students submitted their written business plans and orally presented their business idea to a panel of judges. First place and runners-up at the regional level advanced to the state competition in Wichita on April 28. Winners of the state competition received venture capital funding for their businesses.

Regional Business Plan Competition Winners received venture capital funds.

Kansas City Metro Region:

1st Place: Trina Durham- Wyandotte High School, \$1,000
2nd Place: Madyson Smith- Truman High School, \$750
3rd Place: Nate Musser- J.C. Harmon High School, \$500

State Business Plan Competition Winners

1st Place: Jordan Haas—Upbeat Instruct—Andover High School \$2,500
2nd Place: Asher (Erik) Chester— Buzz Session—Garden City High School \$1,000
3rd Place: Yadira Chavez— Scoops—Wichita North High School \$500

Teacher and Volunteer Recognition

Aside from student awards, outstanding teachers and volunteers were also recognized. The regional recipients were:

Outstanding Volunteer of the Year

Chris Geisert, Tradebot Systems, Wyandotte High School Business Plan Advisor

Teacher/Program of the Year

Laura Solomon, Van Horn High School

20th Anniversary Awards

Honoring those with a history of loyal dedication and commitment to the success of Youth Entrepreneurs.

Kansas City Metro Region

Kauffman Foundation- The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation was integral to the expansion of Youth Entrepreneurs' program to the Kansas City Metro area by providing the seed money to begin the program.

Speas Foundation- The John W. and Effie E. Speas Foundation, managed by Trustees at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, has supported Youth Entrepreneurs in the Kansas City region since 2007, helping expand the program to Kansas City youth.

About Youth Entrepreneurs

Founded in 1991 by the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, Youth Entrepreneurs teaches free enterprise fundamentals to high school students through hands-on experiences. The program gives students the skills and tools to start their own business or enhance their business skills for future career opportunities, as well as encourages them to continue into higher education. Funded completely by private donations, Youth Entrepreneurs is a public 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, to donate or to volunteer with Youth Entrepreneurs, please visit www.yeks.org.

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