

# youth entrepreneurs®

**News Release  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 12, 2011**

**Media Contact:**

Tyler Dustin  
For Youth Entrepreneurs  
913.660.9658  
[tdustin@morningstarcomm.com](mailto: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*

TOPEKA, Kan. – 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 celebrates 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’ Topeka/Lawrence Region held its Dreams to Dividends awards ceremony Wednesday, May 11 at the Ramada Inn in Topeka, Kan.

### **Topeka/Lawrence Regional Scholarship Winners**

**Washburn University Scholarship**

Taylor McDonald—Topeka West High School  
Chante Mitchell—Topeka High School  
Juan Toro—Topeka West High School

### **Youth Entrepreneurs Scholarships \$1,000**

Payton Friess - Topeka 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.

#### Topeka/Lawrence Region:

Taylor Eubanks- Lawrence High School, \$1,000

Dallas Hathaway- Topeka West High School, \$750

Jacob VonFeldt- Lawrence High School, \$500

### **State Business Plan Competition Winners**

1<sup>st</sup> Place: Jordan Haas—Upbeat Instruct—Andover High School \$2,500

2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Asher (Erik) Chester— Buzz Session—Garden City High School \$1,000

3<sup>rd</sup> Place: Yadira Chavez— Scoops—Wichita North High School \$500

### **Teacher Recognition**

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

#### Teacher/Program of the Year, Topeka/Lawrence Region

Murray Moore, Topeka High School

### **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards**

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

#### Topeka/Lawrence Region honorees:

Karl Fundenberger, 2004 Topeka High School Youth Entrepreneurs Alum, Topeka/Lawrence Advisory Council, Business Plan Advisor, business plan and scholarship judge.

Mal Robinson, Board of Directors, Topeka/Lawrence Advisory Council.

### **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](http://www.yeks.org).

###