

youth entrepreneurs®

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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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

WICHITA, 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’ Wichita/South Central Kansas Region held its Dreams to Dividends awards ceremony Tuesday, May 10 at the Abode Venue in Wichita, Kan.

Wichita/South Central Kansas Regional Scholarship Winners

Emporia State University Scholarship

Darpan Bhakta- Wichita South High School
Tabitha Ellis- Andover Central High School

Dodge City Community College Scholarship

Taylor Ward- Wichita Northwest High School

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Newman University Scholarship \$3,000

Macy Owens- Wichita Northwest High School

Katherine Prieksat- Campus High School

Wichita Area Technical College Scholarship

Chase Johnson- Andover Central High School

Brenda Valvidia- Newton High School

Wichita State University W. Frank Barton School of Business Scholarship

Ryan Schrader- Andover Central High School

Wichita State University Center for Entrepreneurship Scholarship

Katie Denning- Campus High School

Youth Entrepreneurs Scholarships \$1,000

David Auer - Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School

Kaysee Baron - Newton High School

Sam Breitenbach - Kapaun Mt. Carmel High School

Emma Brown - Augusta High School

Katelyn Buck - Clearwater High School

Kirsten Conley - Campus High School

Jessica Crumrine - Newton High School

Lauren Fahsholtz - Andover High School

Kyle Fiedler - Newton High School

Chelsea Grosch - Newton High School

Jared Jamis - Wichita East High School

Hugh McConnell - Newton High School

Melissa Mihelic - Andover High School

Daniel Nguyen - Wichita East High School

Reiley Pankratz - Wichita East High School

Kendall Schmidt - Newton High School

T'Allyn Smith - Wichita East High School

Jasmine Starr - Wichita South High School

Saad Syed Wichita – Wichita East High School

Kiet Tran Wichita - Wichita East High School

Rusten Weaver - Newton High School

Youth Entrepreneurs Scholarships \$2,500

Michael Hammers- Andover Central High School

Carly Willis- Newton High School

Youth Entrepreneurs Scholarship \$8,000

Matthew Conklin- Winfield 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.

Wichita Region:

Cheyenne Bullock- Southeast High School, \$1,000

Kelci Glover-Northwest High School, \$1,000

Jared Jamis- East High School, \$750

Yadira Chavez, North High School, \$750

Taylor Brokus- Wichita South High School, \$500

Mirtha Salcido- Wichita West High School, \$500

South Central Region:

Jordan Haas- Andover High School, \$1,000

Cassoday Harder- Newton High School, \$750

Andrew Ingram- Andover Central 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

Joley Hoover, multiple Wichita high schools Business Plan Advisor

Anya Leonard, Highland Park High School Business Plan Advisor

Jeff Long, Winfield High School Business Plan Advisor

Teacher/Program of the Year

Julie Bailey, Andover High School

Jon Berseth, Wichita South High School

20th Anniversary Awards

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

Youth Entrepreneurs.

Wichita/South Central Kansas Region honorees:

Paul Wemmer, 1996 Youth Entrepreneurs alum, Wichita Advisory Council Member, Business Plan Advisor, business plan and showcase judge.

Matt Silverthorne, Youth Entrepreneurs Wichita North High School Teacher and mentor for 20 years, Wichita Advisory Council Member, Teacher Advisory Council.

Darin Dredge- 1994 Youth Entrepreneurs alum, former Youth Entrepreneurs employee, student mentor.

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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