



**News Release
FOR APPROVAL ONLY**

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**Local Business Professionals Donate Time and Knowledge to
Kansas City–Area High School Students**
Youth Entrepreneurs Kansas Announces Kansas City Advisory Council

Kansas City, Kan. – To further the mission of Youth Entrepreneurs Kansas (YEK) and increase the entrepreneurial opportunities available to Kansas City students, YEK recently formed a Kansas City Advisory Council. The Advisory Council, made up of local business leaders who are passionate about entrepreneurial education, will provide input and direction into the local promotion and development of YEK.

“The insights and advocacy provided by our new Kansas City Advisory Council members are invaluable,” said Kylie Stupka, YEK executive director. “With their help, the YEK program will continue to expand and grow to help teach high school students the skills needed to succeed in business.”

The Kansas City Advisory Council is comprised of the following Kansas City–area business leaders:

- Eric Buer of Tradebot Ventures
- Rita Cain of UMKC
- Christopher O’Connor of Liquid 9 Productions
- Bo Fishback of Kauffman Foundation
- Kyle Holt of U, Inc.
- Joyce Layman of Pacific Accord
- Marshall Lockton of Lockton Companies
- Kevin Rooney of Bank of America
- Laura Schmid of Cerner Corporation
- Liz Carter-Stevenson of Market Sphere Consulting

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- Julie Stoll of State Farm Insurance

The Advisory Council meets monthly to determine goals and provide business insights for the YEK program in area schools. Council members help raise awareness for YEK in the Kansas City area, while helping increase learning opportunities through fundraising and volunteer recruitment.

“We have established specific goals we hope will promote and expand the YEK program to provide more students with the opportunity to participate in the YEK class,” said Kevin Rooney, a senior vice president with Bank of America Merrill Lynch and member of the Kansas City Advisory Council. “Being a member of the Advisory Council is a great way to promote entrepreneurship and market-based management principles.”

YEK provides students with business and entrepreneurial education in 26 schools throughout the state of Kansas as well as three schools in Independence, Mo. The goal of the curriculum is to stimulate economic thinking skills, encourage intelligent risk-taking, provide practical business expertise and instill independence and personal responsibility. YEK students write business plans, participate in classroom competitions, and work with community business leaders to enhance their business skills for future endeavors, including entrepreneurship and higher education. In the Kansas City metropolitan area, the class is currently offered in eight schools, including Bishop Ward High School, F.L. Schlagle High School, J.C. Harmon High School, Washington High School, Wyandotte High School, Truman High School, Van Horn High School and William Chrisman High School.

About Youth Entrepreneurs Kansas (YEK)

Founded in 1991 by the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation, YEK 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, YEK is a public 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. For more information, to donate or to volunteer with YEK, please visit www.yeks.org.

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