



News Release
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**Area Leaders Engage
in an Evening in Entrepreneuria**

Youth Entrepreneurs Kansas raises \$250,000 at biennial Biz Bang event

WICHITA, Kan. – More than 650 business, civic and community leaders gathered on Friday, August 20 for Youth Entrepreneurs Kansas (YEK) biennial Biz Bang event. Themed “An Evening in Entrepreneuria,” the event raised \$250,000, to go toward entrepreneurial education in Kansas and Missouri high schools.

“As a longtime supporter of YEK, we’ve seen the positive impact the program has on youth in our community,” said Shawn Lancelot, Wichita Market President for Bank of America. “Through Biz Bang we’re able to give to a worthy cause that equips students with the skills and knowledge needed for personal and economic success. We look forward to the event each year.”

The event was held at the home of Liz and Charles Koch, who founded YEK in 1991. Guests enjoyed live entertainment from Aranda, dinner, dancing and an auction to benefit the organization. The evening was a time to celebrate the success of young entrepreneurs and share a commitment to entrepreneurial education.

“Biz Bang is an exclusive event that drives momentum for YEK and the hands-on learning the program offers students,” said Kylie Stupka, YEK executive director. “We’re grateful to all of our supporters for their commitment to rally behind our future leaders.”

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Major sponsors of the 2010 Biz Bang included:

- Bank of America
- BKD, LLP
- Spirit AeroSystems
- Bombardier Learjet
- Kansas Gas Service
- WSU W. Frank Barton School of Business
- Delta Dental

YEK is a year-long high school business elective course licensed by the Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE). The expansion of the program to Independence classrooms in August 2010 marks the organizations first move into the state of Missouri. In 2010-2011, the curriculum will serve 1,000 students in 29 schools in the greater Kansas City area, greater Wichita area, Topeka, Lawrence, and Southwest Kansas. As of May 2010, YEK had graduated more than 10,000 students from the program.

About Youth Entrepreneurs Kansas

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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