YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS *Academy*

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

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LOCAL CHAMPION SPONSORSHIP *Opportunity*

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NCF
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YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS Academy

SUPPORTING YOUNG, LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS & LEADERS

Redefining Entrepreneurship Education in America

In order for our community and our country to prosper, our Chamber of Commerce firmly believes that developing the entrepreneurial spirit in our local young people is critical. Therefore, we are seeking your vital support in implementing a new program to achieve just that.

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is a groundbreaking and exciting afterschool program that transforms local middle and high school students into real, confident entrepreneurs. Through the year-long program, students in grades 6-12 generate business ideas, conduct market research, write business plans, pitch to a panel of investors, and launch their very own companies.

From exciting local business guest lecturers to dynamic field trips to local companies, students learn how to develop and run a real enterprise in a fun, projects-based approach.

YEA! was developed in 2004 at the University of Rochester with support from the Kauffman Foundation. Today, the Academy is a proud national partner of the United States Chamber of Commerce and Campaign for Free Enterprise.

Our Chamber of Commerce is hoping to adopt the class to build young, entrepreneurial minds right here in this community. Our new Academy also provides local companies and organizations like yours a way to get involved and become a proud major sponsor of the class.

On the following page, you will see how your support can make a difference to local students, the local business community, and the entire region while also meeting your own strategic goals.

Passionate about fitness and fighting childhood obesity, Elishia Ortiz launched Young & Fit Forever through the Academy. The educational excercise company produced, marketed, and sold professional DVDs featuring exercise videos and healthy eating recipes for kids. As a high school student, Elishia turned a profit while also fighting for a cause.

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Benefits to Local Sponsorship:

Your generous support will directly transform local students into real business owners and real entrepreneurial success stories, strengthen our business and educational communities, and secure the next generation of leaders in our region. However, sponsoring the Academy also has many selective benefits that will help your business or organization achieve your own strategic goals as well.

- ✔ Exclusive Judging Seat & Featured Speaker Opportunity at local YEA! Investor Panel Event
- ✔ Exposure & Logo on local YEA! materials and Chamber of Commerce Web Site
- ✔ Media Impressions from *Thank You!* story and recognition in YEA! Press Releases
- ✔ Enhanced reputation and significant recognition in your region as a leader in innovation, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement.

From press opportunities at the exciting Investor Panel Event where the students pitch their business plans live to the community, to positive media impressions and stories speaking of your generosity and commitment to small business in the region, becoming a sponsor of our new Young Entrepreneurs Academy class is a great way to strengthen your organization and the future of our community.

Eric Meyer launched Spotlight Video Productions through the Academy and transformed his passion for filmmaking into a business that generated tens of thousands of dollars in revenue. As a sophomore in high school, Eric's company was producing wedding videos, corporate productions, and even traveling around the world to produce resort promotional videos.