

Allen County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Event

Amanda Clasen, our Community Vitality Agent, recently ran her first Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, held in Partnership with Allen County E-Communities in Humboldt with the high school.

There were 10 students signed up with 5 Business Ideas this year. The students are part of the Entrepreneurship class at the Humboldt High School under the leadership of Logan Wyrick. She is hoping that next year she will have students from all of the Allen County High Schools participating but due to the short turnaround time this year, just one school was focused on. She is also hoping to add a Tradeshow portion to the event next year to allow students to showcase their skills and products to the public.

Students are required to submit a written business plan to be judged by local community members and business owners. The day of the event, students presented a formal presentation lasting approximately 4-5 minutes to the judges. The scores of both are compiled to determine the winner of the local event. \$2000 from a NetWork Kansas Grant and E-Community Funds was awarded to the top places at the event! After the local event the top placing business will have the opportunity to take their business to the K-State Campus on April 16 to compete at the state level.

For many years, the Kansas Masons were a headlining partner with NetWork Kansas to put on this event across the state. This past year they had to step away from being a headlining partner and through a K-State 105 initiative, K-State Research and Extension, along with Kansas 4-H, were able to fully fund the next three years of programming to continue this event across the state.

NetWork Kansas, a statewide entrepreneurial organization, coordinates the Youth Entrepreneur Challenge series and Kansas Entrepreneur Challenge in partnership with the Center for the Advancement of Entrepreneurship in the K-State College of Business Administration. The 2023-24 competition year marks the 11th annual YEC season.

During the most recent 2022-23 competition year, the YEC series held 56 local-level competitions featuring 1,136 high school and middle school students from across Kansas. More than \$90,000 in prize money was awarded to winners across the state.

Business Placings and Prize money:

- 1st- Bert's Cough Gum- Colden Cook, Sam Hull, and Patrick Reed – They won \$1000
- 2nd place- Wild West Boutique- Faith Coykendall, Jenna Malloy, Chanlynn Wrestler- They won \$500
- 3rd Place- Back to the drawing Board- Evan Dye - They won \$300
- 4th Place- Forever Flower- Zachary Hegwald- He won \$400
- 5th Place- Mess away- Mess Cleaner- Brody Gunderman & Cole Mathes- They won \$100.

Our Local judges were Damaris Kunkler with A Bolder Humboldt, Jared Wheeler with THRIVE Allen County, Sharla Miller with Farm Bureau Insurance, and Bailee Henry From NetWork Kansas.