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**FIRST ROUND OF SPONSORS ANNOUNCED
BY CATTARAUGUS-ALLEGANY YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY**

OLEAN, NY (June 20, 2017)—The Cattaraugus-Allegany Young Entrepreneurs Academy is pleased to announce the first round of support from local organizations and businesses of its innovative program that transforms local middle and high school students into real entrepreneurial successes.

YEA! is a groundbreaking program that takes students in grades 6th to 12th through the process of starting and launching a real business or social movement over the course of an academic year. By the end of the class, students own and operate fully-formed and functioning businesses, which may be carried on after their graduation from the program.

“We are thrilled to have the support of SolEpoxy, LLC, the Cattaraugus County IDA, National Grid, The L.C. Whitford Co. Inc. and the Bolivar Lions and Lioness.” Said Halley Kottwitz, YEA! Program Manager.” “This will mean so much to the students as they make strides toward launching their businesses this coming school year.”

“The County of Cattaraugus Industrial Development Agency (CCIDA) is honored to support, participate and contribute to the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) Being that YEA is a groundbreaking and exciting program that looks to transform local middle and high school students into real, confident entrepreneurs, speaks directly to helping and shaping our bright entrepreneurs to be the business leaders/owners of tomorrow, right here in Cattaraugus County.” Said Corey Wiktor, Executive Director of the Cattaraugus County IDA. The CCIDA made a contribution of \$3,000.

National Grid made the same contribution of \$3,000. Al Wager, Manager Community & Customer Management, Southwest Region for National Grid and Corey Wiktor will serve on the prestigious Investor Panel where students make a pitch for real funding to inject into their business.

Wager comments, “I’m fortunate to work for a company that realizes today’s youth are tomorrow’s leaders. National Grid fully supports opportunities to develop relevant educational-support programs, and the Young Entrepreneurs Academy is a perfect example. This afterschool program offers participants a dynamic learning environment, which could ultimately be linked to emerging human resource needs of our area employers.”

The Bolivar Lions and Lioness Club each made a donation of \$125. Together, they are considered a Friend of YEA!. The L.C. Whitford Co., Inc has also generously donated \$250 to support students’ ventures.

SolEpoxy, Inc. has pledged \$5,000, and will also be supporting the program by mentoring students, being a guest speaker, providing a field trip location, and participating in the CEO Roundtable Event. Tuition is \$495, and SolEpoxy, Inc. has decided to sponsor two student scholarships in the amount of \$990.

“SolEpoxy supports the Young Entrepreneurs Academy because our region has well-educated and highly motivated kids who need to know that they have what it takes to become a successful business founder and owner right here in the Southern Tier.” Said Jeff Belt, President, SolEpoxy, Inc.

The Academy is fortunate to have other sponsors as well. The Jamestown Community College Cattaraugus Campus will allow the class to use a computer lab on the campus. St. Bonaventure will host our events on their campus. “We are lucky to have the support of the Community as we venture forth with this program.” Said Kottwitz. Regular classes will be held each Wednesday starting October 25, 2017 at the Olean Business Development Corporation on North Union Street. The OBDC is allowing the Academy to use the space rent-free.

The Cattaraugus-Allegany Young Entrepreneurs Academy is accepting student applications until September 15, 2017. If students turn in their applications before July 1st, the \$20 application fee will be waived. Use the code EARLY18 to waive the fee! There are only 30 spots available to 6th-12th graders. Apply now!

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is a 501(C) 3 offering groundbreaking year-long classes that teach middle and high school students how to start and run their own businesses. Throughout the class, students develop business ideas, write business plans, conduct market research, pitch their plans to a panel of investors for startup funds, and launch and run their own, fully formed companies and social movements. The project-based program empowers students to take charge of their futures.

Founded in 2004 at the University of Rochester with support from the Kauffman Foundation, YEA! today serves thousands of students nationwide. In 2011, the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation became a national sponsor and partner of the Academy to help celebrate the spirit of enterprise among today's youth and tomorrow's future leaders.

YEA! bridges the business and educational communities to fulfill its mission of teaching more students how to make a job, not just take a job. YEA! is made possible by The Kauffman Foundation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the E. Philip Saunders Foundation. For more information, visit yeausa.org.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation is dedicated to strengthening America's long-term competitiveness and educating the public on how the free enterprise system improves society and the economy.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations.

Sam's Club

Sam's Club®, a division of Walmart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT), is a leading membership warehouse club offering savings and services to millions of members in 651 clubs in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Sam's Club offers affordable access to innovative services for families and small business owner, including travel, payroll and HR services, protection plans, legal solutions, cash rewards and more. To learn more about time and money with Sam's Club visit

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