

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Olean Business Development Corporation TO HOST MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FOR POWERFUL NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

Olean, NY (March 13, 2017)— Cattaraugus County Business Development Corporation (CCBDC) announces a collaboration with the Olean Business Development Corporation (OBDC).

Beginning this fall, Olean Business Development will provide state-of-the-art classroom space for the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!), a program brought to the area by CCBDC.

YEA! is a groundbreaking program that takes students ages 11 to 18 through the process of starting and launching a real business or social movement over the course of an academic year. Students brainstorm business ideas, write business plans, pitch to investors for startup funding, register their companies with governmental agencies, and launch their own business or social movement. Students also have the opportunity to compete for college scholarships in regional and national business pitch competitions.

“We are proud of this partnership and the ability to offer YEA! at the Olean Business Development Corporation offices in downtown Olean because of its reputation for excellence and longstanding community involvement,” said Richard Zink, CCBDC’s president.

“YEA!’s curriculum aligns with the ongoing work of Olean Business Development”, notes Larry Sorokes, OBD’s president.

“A big part of our mission in reviving the entrepreneurial spirit in Cattaraugus County and the Olean area is inspiring the next generation of innovators and business leaders,” Sorokes said. “The YEA! program provides an excellent opportunity for students to become entrepreneurs, and we are excited to see what new businesses they’ll create during their time with us.”

Successful business executives and local entrepreneurs across a variety of industries are invited to support YEA! students throughout the fun, hands-on and experiential curriculum as business mentors or guest lecturers. In addition, both large and small businesses can volunteer to serve as a field trip host.

“Recent DECA presentations and Science Fairs have shown that we have some very talented and passionate future business leaders in our area. Our local schools are very excited about the opportunities that YEA will bring to our area youth.” said Evelyn Sabina, OBDC Education Committee Chairperson and Cattaraugus County Dream It. Do It. Coordinator.

For more information about how to get involved, contact Halley Kottwitz at hkottwitz@southerntierwest.org or call 716-945-5301 ext. 2207.

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 www.SamsClub.com/services.

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