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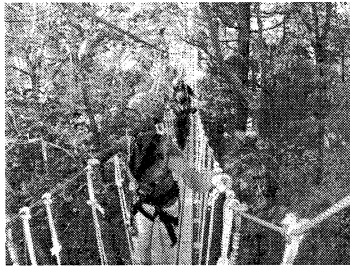
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## YEA takes ZipQuest

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Contributed photo YEA student Chante' Deese enjoys a scenic view of the Carver's Falls area near Fayetteville on a recent field trip.

Mary Katherine Murphy

Staff reporter

The Laurinburg-Scotland County Area Chamber of Commerce's Young Entrepreneurs Academy has hit the ground zipping.

YEA students took their first field trip on Nov. 11 to ZipQuest, a zip-line in Fayetteville. Students experienced the thrill of being propelled along a wire over a 55-acre area of forest, while also learning about starting a business that may not be the most traditional.

"It was supposed to be a 'cool' business," said Brenda Gilbert, the Chamber's workforce development coordinator, who is working with the school system to organize YEA. "These three brothers turned their family land into one of the top 10 zip-lines in the country."

Eason Bryan, one of the entrepreneurs who started ZipQuest, spoke to the YEA group about entrepreneurship and advised them on ways to succeed.

"He talked to us for a while and told them about entrepreneurship, and not to be afraid of failing" said Gilbert. "He told them to find their match, because you're good at what you love. He also told them about marketing and what is and is not effective - he keeps data of everything they do so that they know what's working."

"It was exciting and a little nerve-wracking," said Gwen'dea Rogers, a seventh grade student at Carver Middle School. "Overall it's a very good academy so far, bringing in entrepreneurs who will teach you the ropes and show you what to strive for."

The program has met thrice so far, and students are beginning to finalize their own business ideas. The program, which will guide students through the process of building and starting a business during the course of an academic year, enrolls about 20 students in the middle and high school grades, and first met on Nov. 7.

"We've got everything from worm casting and biochar to photography - it's just a great variety," said Gilbert.

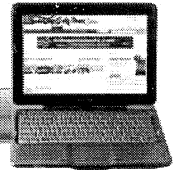
"I love that we're brainstorming and the ideas we're coming up with," said Kenyetta McLaurin, a senior at Scotland High School. "It's really teaching me about teamwork, because I'm in a room with a bunch of people I don't know and we're all working together to come up with a business. Not many teenagers get this chance."

Students will have to narrow down their options and cast their lot on a single idea, for which they will create a business plan. They will then present their plan to a panel of investors and, ideally, have an operating business by the end of the program year.

"They have to do some vetting of their ideas - to determine which are opportunities and which are just good ideas," Gilbert said.

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Humidity: 83% - Wind: East, 6.89 mph  
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Powerball	\$31.00 Million	WED 11/30
MEGA Millions	\$64.00 Million	TUE 11/29
Cash 5	\$50,000	MON 11/28

"My business is a theatre troupe, since that's my ultimate goal: to be an actor," said Scotland High School senior LeVern Hamer. "In entrepreneurship and sharing ideas, we might be afraid to share because we're afraid that our idea isn't good enough or that someone else will take it. So right now we're just breaking down all the boundaries and building trust."

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DJIA	11231.78	↓ -25.77	-0.23%
NYSE	6898.18	↓ -21.74	-0.31%
TSX Comp	11462.06	↓ -23.26	-0.20%

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