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## Young Entrepreneurs Academy Launch | Business

### Title

Young Entrepreneurs Academy Launch



Submitted by [mmullen \(profile/54287/mmullen\)](#), Community Web Producer  
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The Greater York Region Chamber of Commerce announced today the launch of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) program at Traip Academy in Kittery, ME. Classes will be held on Tuesdays starting November 29, 2011 from 3:00p to 6:00pm thru June 2012. YEA! offers students in grades six through twelve the opportunity to experience the process of starting and running a legally-registered and fully-formed business over the course of a full academic year. The program was made possible in part by a grant from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"The Young Entrepreneurs Academy teaches business skills, problem solving, and the encouragement to explore new ideas. We are living in a time where not all children are able to attend college or trade school to learn business skills. The program provides the education needed to create a job. I would like YEA to be a course requirement for all High School students. I am proud that the Greater York Region Chamber of Commerce is able to bring this program to the future business owners of our community." Said Holly Roberts, Director of The Greater York Region Chamber of Commerce

"The U.S. Chamber is proud to be partnering with The Greater York Region Chamber of Commerce on the YEA! program," said Margaret Spellings, president of the U.S. Chamber's Forum for Policy Innovation. "By challenging students' entrepreneurial curiosity and empowering them to believe starting their own business is possible, we can encourage the next generation of job creators."

The YEA! program takes students through the steps to launching an enterprise: brainstorming; preparing a business plan; pitching ideas to real investors; and bringing their products or services to market. To get their businesses off the ground, students will meet with local business owners, civic leaders, and financial and marketing professionals. The experience-based entrepreneurship program was launched in 2004, resulting in more than 416 businesses to date, over half of which students have continued after graduation. The numbers are poised to grow—the U.S. Chamber's grant program resulted in an expansion of YEA! into 15 new regions.

The timing for YEA! is right. A recent national survey conducted by the National Chamber Foundation and Junior Achievement found that 64% of high school juniors were interested in starting or owning their own businesses and that they strongly believe it is important that high school students are taught about entrepreneurship, free enterprise, and capitalism.

The Greater York Region Chamber of Commerce Mission Statement: To promote the growth & general prosperity of Southern Maine.

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.

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy is a groundbreaking educational program that takes students in grades six through twelve through the process of starting and running a real business or social movement over the course of a full academic year. YEA!'s direct mission is to help students embrace their passion, energy, creativity and talents, launch a venture, and view entrepreneurship and social innovation as synonymous with success and freedom. Young people begin the YEA! class as students and finish as CEO's! YEA! teaches kids how to make a job - not just take a job. YEA! aims to motivate 100,000 students between the ages of 11 and 18 in the USA by 2013.

[www.yeausa.org](http://www.yeausa.org) (<http://www.yeausa.org>)

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