

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Young Entrepreneurs Academy Comes to Continuing Education

Program Needs Local Business Owners to Ignite the Creative Spirit in Students

KEENE, NH – The Office of Continuing Education and Extended Studies at Keene State College is pleased to announce they have taken on stewardship of the Young Entrepreneurs Academy, also known as YEA!

YEA! is a national cutting-edge program that takes students to local middle and high school students through the process of starting and launching a real business or social movement over the course of an academic year. The goal, by the end of the weekly classes, is to help young students evolve into business owners who operate fully-formed and functioning businesses.

The YEA! program also helps the Keene State fulfill its goal of supporting small business development in our community by training future leaders and helping them to establish strong, lasting relationships with their hometown business community.

During the 30-week YEA! commitment, students brainstorm and form their business ideas, make pitches to investors for startup funding, file their DBAs, and launch their own businesses or social movements. Mentors and local entrepreneurs across a variety of industries, such as graphic design, web development, law, accounting, retail, manufacturing, technology and more are invited to support the students throughout the hands-on curriculum as mentors, field trip hosts or guest lecturers.

“One of the most interesting components of YEA! is the ‘behind the scenes’ knowledge that local business leaders are able to share with students. Community support strengthens the program, and the Academy strengthens the community,” says Allison Barrows, YEA! Program Manager. “The students also gain skills that they can apply to any field they choose to enter, and will have the foundation to become future leaders of their industries.”

- 100% of YEA! participants graduate high school on time
- 99% enroll in college
- 49% are female
- 56% are underrepresented minorities
- 19% start second businesses
- 4,338 YEA! students nationwide have launched more than 3,172 real businesses in America

“YEA! aims to teach students at an early age how to *make* a job, not just *take* a job,” explains YEA! Founder and CEO Gayle Jagel. “At a time when small business growth is declining in the U.S., young entrepreneurs with the right training can become a powerful force of innovative thinkers and even employers.”

For more information about how you and your organization can become involved in YEA!, contact Program Manager [Allison Barrows](#) at 603-357-7306.