



YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE SERIES



**COMMUNITY-BASED
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
COMPETITIONS**
CULMINATING IN A STATE
CHAMPIONSHIP



Entrepreneurship
Community
Partnership



Kansas communities host local youth entrepreneurship competitions as part of the Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge (YEC) Series organized by NetWork Kansas. These events bring students together for a hands-on entrepreneurship experience. More than 2,400 students have participated in a total of 124 competitions in the YEC Series since it launched in 2013-2014.

Entrepreneurship teaches students a variety of life skills and shows them how to look for problems they can solve in their communities.

Typically, local competitions involve students preparing an executive summary, a “tradeshow booth” (similar to a science fair display), and a presentation or pitch. Then, students compete against one another in teams or individually. Students’ work is judged by local entrepreneurs, bankers, teachers, and other adults. Most successful events are organized through a teacher or school as a classroom project or extracurricular activity.

The YEC Series culminates in an annual statewide championship. Students compete for cash prizes and get to network with other young entrepreneurs.



STUDENTS WILL LEARN TO:

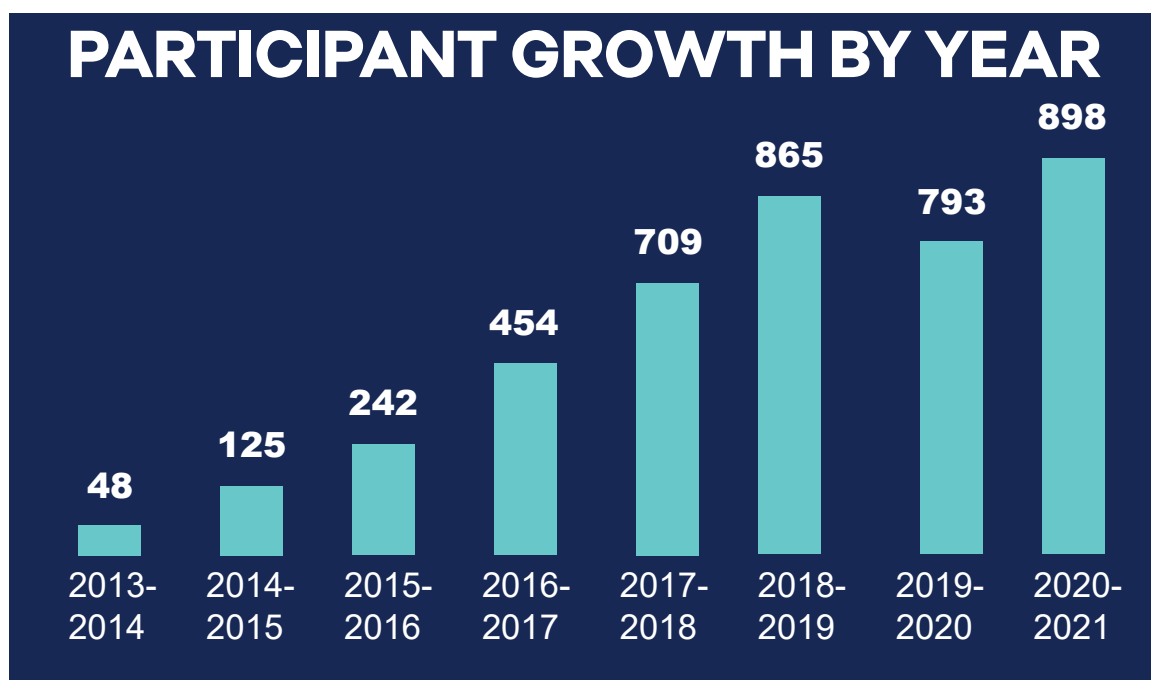
- Use critical thinking skills to identify and evaluate entrepreneurial opportunities and learn from results
- Establish personal goals, identify resources, and determine steps to accomplish goals
- Understand processes of writing executive summaries, building business plans, pitching ideas to the public, and obtaining capital
- Interact with local entrepreneurs and business owners, and potential clients and investors

IMPORTANT PLANNING COMPONENTS

- Start planning early
- Seek out local business sponsors and mentors
- Form solid teacher partnerships
- Grow your network each year
- Form solid connections with school districts

ADDITIONAL BEST PRACTICES

- Partner with a local college to sponsor an event
- Hold pre-qualifying rounds to control the size of large events
- Visit classrooms to engage students in-person



YEC Series Participants said they were **78% more likely** to engage in entrepreneurship in the future.

TESTIMONIALS

“The YEC is a terrific opportunity that helps you put your business plan into action.”

BRIDGET STANTON, STUDENT,
YEC SERIES/STATE CHAMPIONSHIP PARTICIPANT, RILEY COUNTY

“It is such an amazing experience for our students! The YEC Series is an opportunity for students to get away from the textbook and apply real-world skills.”

CHASE TOLIFF, BUSINESS/MARKETING
INSTRUCTOR, GOODLAND JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

“I highly encourage all students to take part in YEC. The experiences they gain will put them miles ahead.”

LEA ANN SEILER, DIRECTOR
HODGEMAN COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CONTACT INFORMATION

To learn more or to discuss if a Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Series is right for your community, please contact your NetWork Kansas E-Community regional representative or e-mail boardcertified@networkkansas.com.



WWW.NETWORKKANSAS.COM