

USU Extension Grant – Final Report

Project Leader: Wendy English

Project Title: Youth Entrepreneurship Program

Project Date Range: 11/4/2016 – 3-15-2017

Project Funds Requested: \$10,000

Project Summary:

The Youth Entrepreneurship Program (YEP) was designed to provide a practical entrepreneurship experience for high-school aged students in Box Elder County. Ultimately, the Box Elder County School District asked that, due to the value of the curriculum, that YEP be taught in the classroom on a daily basis as opposed to once a week after school. Through the course of their trimester, YEP students were taught business principles in an academic setting, then learned about the challenges & rewards of business ownership by local business owners, and ultimately experienced entrepreneurship first hand by creating a business idea, pitching the idea in front of a panel of investors, and trying to create a return on the investment.

Project Results:

Collaboration: While the YEP project did not specifically increase collaboration between on and off-campus faculty, it did increase collaboration between USU faculty and Box Elder County school district faculty. The program could not have functioned without working hand-in-hand with the School District administrators and business curriculum educators. The class was actually overseen at the high-school level by the entrepreneurship teacher.

Outcomes, outputs and impacts: Through the course of the winter trimester at Bear River High School in Tremonton, 26 students participated in the YEP class. The students were divided into three working teams and were required to come up with a business idea that they would both pitch to investors and use to try to earn a return on investment. Two of the teams successfully pitched to a panel of investors and received funding (\$200 in total) to begin operation of a micro team business. The third team, while their idea was solid, weren't quite ready to accept an investment. The two teams that did receive start-up funding both earned back their investment plus a little extra. The extra funds earned were then used to hold an end-of-term party for the students.

Efforts to produce scholarly materials: The original plan for YEP was to hold a class at Bear River High School during the second trimester, and at Box Elder High School for the third trimester. Curriculum for this program was initially created as an 8-week, once-a-week after school course. When Box Elder County School District asked that YEP be taught as an everyday class, the curriculum required a great deal of massaging and flexibility. The decision was made to improve the curriculum during the second trimester at Bear River, then solidify and polish the curriculum during the third trimester at Box Elder High. Unfortunately, one of the most integral people in accomplishing the purpose of YEP was diagnosed with lung cancer and the third trimester at Bear River High had to be canceled. This has prevented any additional creation or polishing of the YEP curriculum.

Efforts to secure extramural funds: As YEP was cancelled within Box Elder County school district, no efforts have been given to continue obtaining external, ongoing funds.

Publication of lessons learned:

A recorded discussion of YEP collaborators will be made available as soon as it is completed. The current timeline for its completion is August 31st, 2017.