

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 2, 2018

**Contact:**

Jennifer Baggarly

478-621-2010

[jbaggarly@maconchamber.com](mailto:jbaggarly@maconchamber.com)

## **YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY (YEA!) SEEKS INNOVATIVE MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

*Now Accepting Applications*

The Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications for the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) for the 2019-2019 class. YEA! is a 20 week program that guides middle and high school students through launching and running their own real businesses or social movements!

YEA! is open to all students in grades 6-12. While in the Academy, students will receive all the necessary tools to launch their very own real, legal businesses. This includes access to valuable experts like attorneys, accountants, business mentors, and graphic designers; plus an audience with investors for real start-up cash! Students will also have the opportunity to win college scholarships.

The YEA! application is available online at [yeausa.org](http://yeausa.org). Please select Macon, GA as your location. Scholarships are available for students who meet eligibility requirements. Contact local YEA! Program Manager, Jennifer Baggarly for details.

Applications must be submitted by September 14, 2018. The selection process is competitive and applicants are urged to apply early.

YEA! classes kick off on October 10, 2019 with Orientation and concludes on April 4, 2019 with a Graduation Ceremony. Classes meet weekly at the Mercer Innovation Center on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M.

---

### **The Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce**

Established in 1861, the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce is the area's largest business services organization and primary advocate for the Macon business community. The Chamber supports the growth and development of business by offering networking and marketing opportunities, providing valuable benefits to its members, advocating for legislative issues that will promote a healthy business climate, and participating in the economic development efforts for Macon-Bibb. [www.maconchamber.com](http://www.maconchamber.com)

**The Young Entrepreneurs Academy**

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is a 501(C) 3 offering groundbreaking year-long classes that teach middle and high school students how to start and run their own businesses. Throughout the class, students develop business ideas, write business plans, conduct market research, pitch their plans to a panel of investors for startup funds, and launch and run their own, fully formed companies and social movements. The project-based program empowers students to take charge of their futures.

Founded in 2004 at the University of Rochester with support from the Kauffman Foundation, YEA! today serves thousands of students nationwide. In 2011, the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation became a national sponsor and partner of the Academy to help celebrate the spirit of enterprise among today's youth and tomorrow's future leaders.

YEA! bridges the business and educational communities to fulfill its mission of teaching more students how to make a job, not just take a job. YEA! is made possible by The Kauffman Foundation, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the E. Philip Saunders Foundation. For more information, visit [yeausa.org](http://yeausa.org).

**U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation**

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation is dedicated to strengthening America's long-term competitiveness and educating the public on how the free enterprise system improves society and the economy.

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.

**Sam's Club**

Sam's Club®, a division of Walmart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT), is a leading membership warehouse club offering savings and services to millions of members in 651 clubs in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Sam's Club offers affordable access to innovative services for families and small business owner, including travel, payroll and HR services, protection plans, legal solutions, cash rewards and more. To learn more about time and money with Sam's Club visit [www.SamsClub.com/services](http://www.SamsClub.com/services).

###