



ARAPAHOE COUNTY
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News Release

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CSU Extension hosts May 13 Buckley Youth Adventure Accelerator *Business pitch competition at CSU/Denver campus showcases youth entrepreneurship*

Centennial, Colo. — Youth entrepreneurship was the focus of a thrilling business pitch competition hosted by Colorado State University Extension-Arapahoe County in Denver May 13.

The event was the culmination of a six-week program that taught valuable entrepreneurial skills to a group of nine students at the Buckley Air Force Base Youth Center in Aurora. The workshop was a collaborative effort that involved the CSU School of Business's Institute of Entrepreneurship, CSU Extension-Arapahoe County's Community Development Program, the Buckley Air Force Base Support Squadron and the Air Force Services Youth Program.

Tim Aston, director of CSU Extension-Arapahoe County, Tom Cox, director of the Buckley Youth Center and Charisse Bowen, director of the CSU Institute for Entrepreneurship were the driving forces in bringing this program to the Buckley community.

"This program delivered an outstanding mix of skills and experiences to a group of young adults who readily grasped the importance of the workshops," Aston said. "Many kids these days would rather spend their spare time relaxing and playing video games than hone their very own business idea and learn the skills needed to pitch it. These students were engaged and enthusiastic all the way through, which showed us their remarkable drive and desire."

The two-hour workshops were held each Tuesday evening in April and early May at the Buckley Youth Center and were led by Nicholas Tart and Jessica Rawley from CSU's Institute of Entrepreneurship. The business ideas and plans included a Farm-to-Table business, a Duct Tape Wallet business, and a drop-in center for developmentally challenged youths. Three winners were announced at the pitch competition and were given cash awards and valuable coaching/mentor contacts to further their businesses.

Three young Buckley entrepreneurs also attended the Blue Ocean Challenge, a yearly pitch competition hosted by Blue Ocean Enterprises and the CSU School of Business's Institute for Entrepreneurship on May 24. Dubbed the 'richest pitch competition in Colorado', this event allowed the entrepreneurs to present their business ideas at the Youth and Partner Showcase, and also meet other young entrepreneurs in a dynamic and fun environment. It was a great conclusion to the program.

For more information about CSU Extension in Arapahoe County, visit www.arapahoextension.org.

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YouthAccelerator.jpg - Nine youth from Buckley Air Force Base were recognized in a business pitch competition after participating in a CSU Extension entrepreneurial workshop.

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