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Money Smarts for Kids. Money Skills for Life

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NEWS RELEASE

The Future of Business in Colorado: Youth Entrepreneurs Shine at Annual Awards Gala

October 9, Denver – Young Americans Center for Financial Education celebrated the accomplishments of nine Colorado youth business owners at the Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars award ceremony and gala, presented by CoBank. This annual event was held Thursday, October 3 at the Seawell Grand Ballroom, Denver Center for the Performing Arts.

In addition to earning a cash prize, three winning businesses received a year with a distinguished mentor, a leader from the Denver business community committed to encouraging the next generation of business owners in Colorado.

Superior resident Ryder Matz won the 6-11 Age Category with his business Ryder's Riches LLC. Ryder, age 10, owns a traveling gumball machine that frequents shops and restaurants in the Lafayette, Louisville, and Boulder area. Over the next year, Ryder will work with Leroy Williams, CEO of CyberTeKIQ to improve his business.

Winning the 12-15 Age Category was 12-year-old Hannah Reyes, owner of HER Desgins. Hannah's hair clips, mirrors, pop-socket-like phone holders, and mini personal alarms each feature a signature rosette that she creates out of fabric. Mentor Alice Jackson, President of Xcel Energy Colorado, will help Hannah continue to grow her Greenwood Village-based business this year.

Yard Boyz, a business created by 18-year-old Jack Fleming, won the 16-21 Age Category. Since 2015, Jack has built his lawn care business to serve 70 regular clients in the Centennial area. Over the next year, Jack will work with mentor Ryan Beiser, Regional President and Head of Corporate Banking for Colorado at PNC.



Mentor Ryan Beiser, Regional President at PNC, introduces winner Jack Fleming, the 18-year-old owner of Yard Boyz at the 2019 Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars awards gala, which benefitted Young Americans Center for Financial Education.

Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars also recognized six finalists:

Lighter Designs, created by Hayden Hopkins (age 11*)

Tuff's Chickens, created by K.J. "Tuff" Glasmann (age 6)

Gabe's Bazaar, created by Gabriel "Gabe" Nagel (age 14)

Sewing with Smiles LLC, created by Maile McManis (age 12)

The Teen Entrepreneur, created by Shouken Lopez (age 16)

THANKS BRAND LLC, created by Owen Johnson (age 19) and Sam Reilly (age 18)

*Age at time of application

These youth operate real businesses with real customers and real profits, and they provided inspiration to a sold-out crowd. "If you want to be creative, get out there and do it," said winner Hannah Reyes in her acceptance speech. "You will be surprised at what you can achieve."

About Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars and Young Americans Center

Spotlight on YouthBiz Stars is a business competition and awards gala that benefits the programs of Young Americans Center for Financial Education, a nonprofit charity that reaches nearly 70,000 youth every year through hands-on programs and real-life experiences to develop financial literacy in youth.

Visit yacenter.org to learn more about Young Americans' resources for young business owners, as well as flagship programs Young AmeriTowne, International Towne, and Young Americans Bank in Denver, the only FDIC insured real bank in the world designed specifically for young people (age 21 and under).

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