

For Immediate Release

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Teen Entrepreneurs to Face Adults in Denver Startup Week Pitch Competition for Chance to Win \$100,000

Event follows last year's grand prize win by teen entrepreneurs

DENVER (September 9, 2020)- When two teen entrepreneurs competed in Denver Startup Week's Pitch Competition, few expected that they would take home the Grand Prize, an award worth \$100,000. Their win surprised and delighted the crowd and has inspired a new group of young entrepreneurs.

For a second year, Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain and Young Americans Center for Financial Education have nominated four entrepreneurs, who will first compete in the Youth Pitch Challenge on Monday, September 14 at 4:00 p.m. with their business ideas, before the winner progresses on to the semifinals of Denver Startup Week's Pitch Competition. This year, the competitions are being held virtually. The grand prize is again valued at \$100,000.

Competing students from Junior Achievement and Young Americans Center include:

- Jack Bonneau: At 14 years old, Jack is pitching his business, Teen Hustl, a neighborhood service in which teens deliver from restaurants and grocery stores on eco-friendly scooters and bikes. Jack was the youngest person to ever successfully pitch on TV's *Shark Tank* at 10 years old for his first business, Jack's Stands.
- Vikas Muralidharan: At 17 years old, Vikas is pitching his business, Intake, an app that focuses on users' nutrition with an emphasis on body positivity.
- Gabriel Nagel: At 15 years old, Gabe is pitching his nonprofit Light CO2, the result of more than 400 hours of dreaming, researching, and building a concrete path to help individuals reduce their individual carbon footprint.
- Leonard Shearer: At 17 years old, Leonard is pitching his business Cardbound, which sells authenticated and rare Pokemon cards and accessories to markets across the globe.

Details:

Denver Startup Week Youth Pass Pitch Challenge

Monday, September 14, 2020

4:00-5:30 p.m.

Livestreamed Event: <https://www.denverstartupweek.org/schedule/6300-youth-pass-pitch-challenge>

Free and open to the public

Denver Startup Week Pitch Competition Semifinals

Wednesday, September 16, 2020

4:00-6:30 p.m.

Livestreamed Event: <https://www.denverstartupweek.org/schedule/6879-dsw-pitch-challenge-semi-finals>

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About Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain

Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain exists so that all kids, regardless of background, receive the tools and build the practical skills they need to build a future for themselves in which they are optimistic, economically self-sufficient, and determined, with a belief in the power of free enterprise. The organization accomplishes this through a network of corporate and community volunteers who deliver career readiness, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship lessons. These programs are free of cost to schools and families. For more information, visit

www.JAColorado.org.

About Young Americans Center for Financial Education

Young Americans Center for Financial Education is a nonprofit organization committed to developing the financial literacy of young people, up to age 22, through real life experiences and hands-on programs. The Center fulfills its mission by offering programs that complement and reinforce each other to build life skills, work skills and financial self-sufficiency. These include Young AmeriTowne, International Towne, YouthBiz, Money Matters classes, summer camps and more. In addition, Young Americans Center houses the only real bank in the world for young people, Young Americans Bank, which shares the same educational mission of teaching children to be financially responsible. Since 1987, more than 800,000 youth have participated in the programs or bank. For more information on the Young Americans Center for Financial Education, visit www.yacenter.org.