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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Warren County High School & Warren County Chamber of Commerce Welcomes Young Entrepreneurs Academy into the Classrooms!

Warrenton, GA, 9/21/2011—The Young Entrepreneurs Academy, or YEA!, an innovative program that guides students through the process of starting their own real business, is excited to announce plans for the program to be piloted in the Warren County School System during school year 2011-2012. The Warren County Chamber of Commerce invites WCHS students, as well as home-school and private-school students (grades 9-12) to submit an application and go through the interview process to be admitted into the class.

YEA! is a groundbreaking program that takes students through the process of starting a launching a real business or social movement over the course of an academic year. By the end of the class, students own and operate fully-formed and functioning businesses, which may be carried after their graduation from the program. YEA! aims at teaching students at an early age how to make a job, not just take a job. YEA! is the only pre-college program developed by an entrepreneur, at a university, with support from a major entrepreneurial foundation, the Kauffman Foundation and the United States Chamber of Commerce.

“We are so excited to be one of the first school districts in the nation to advance our students business education through the Young Entrepreneurs Academy. Our goal is to eventually provide a unique and challenging experience for all students interested in participating,” said Superintendent Carole Jean Carey. “We are also looking forward to opening our doors to home-school students and private school students who may wish to participate in this opportunity!”

During an entire semester beginning in January 2012, students will brainstorm and form their enterprises, make pitches to potential investors, obtain funding, register their companies with governmental agencies, and actually launch their own company or social movement! Business mentors, graphic designers, and local entrepreneurs support the students throughout the program and all of the learning is real and experiential.

“One of the most interesting components of the program is the actual behind the scenes knowledge the students are given from local business leaders, who were at one time, standing in their shoes!” states O.B. McCorkle, Warren County Chamber of Commerce President. “The experience is something they will be able to apply to whatever field they choose to enter, thereby giving them the necessary skills to become future leaders of industry.”

“The program will take a lot of involvement from the community,” adds Gayle Jagel, developer of the YEA program, “We are urging all local business leaders to become involved with the program and act as mentors to the budding entrepreneurs.” By partnering with YEA!, both large and small companies/businesses volunteer their time and services acting as business mentors, field trip hosts, guest lecturers, graphic designers, web developers, attorneys, etc. Community support strengthens the program, and the academy strengthens the community.

Begin as a student and finish as a CEO!©

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