Youth Entrepreneurship this Summer!

The Center for Entrepreneurship and Rural Development is gearing up for another summer full of exciting opportunities for entrepreneurs of all ages! The first opportunity to get involved will be Lemonade Stand, open to all 2nd-5th graders. The Center will be hosting a workshop on campus to learn business skills on June 12th. Students will then have the opportunity to sell their lemonade during downtown Kearney's Night Market on the evening of the 15th. This is a great opportunity for elementary students to learn business skills and put them into action!
participants can capture the energy to create and run their own business. This is a hands-on workshop taking place June 26th-29th, and participants showcase their product at one of two expo opportunities during the summer. The expo options will take place at Hy-Vee on the evening of June 30th and the 24th Street Night Market in downtown Kearney on the evening of July 6th.

All community members are invited to stop by during the expos for Lemonade Stand and Biz Kidz to support our young entrepreneurs!

More Information on Summer Youth Programs

Problems are just businesses waiting for the right entrepreneur to unlock the value.
- Jay Samit, former CEO of SeaChange International

Amanda Slattery is a sophomore at UNK who participated in UNK’s first 3 Day Startup event earlier this year. She studies Interior Design and Construction Management, and plans to graduate in 2019. Here she shares about her experiences at UNK and how 3DS impacted her as an entrepreneur.

Tell us a little about yourself.
I am currently a sophomore studying Interior Design and Construction Management here at UNK. I grew up in rural southwest Nebraska just outside a small town, Indianola. I attended school in McCook where I was actively involved. I plan on graduating in May of 2019.

Originally from Scandinavia, Dr. Sonja Bickford has had a plethora of experience abroad. Bickford has taken groups of students on trips, has been instrumental in creating a partnership between UNK and a university in Finland, and more. Bickford elaborates here on her experiences abroad and her current projects.

Tell us about yourself.
Growing up between Scandinavia and different parts of the United States in a family that moved due to the demands of my father’s job ignited my passion for international business early on. Prior to the move to Kearney, Nebraska, I
Explain what you are studying and what careers it can lead to.

I am studying Interior Design with a minor in Construction Management. Some do not realize but there are so many opportunities for Interior Designers; whether it be residential design, kitchen and bath specialist, or designing different areas of commercial buildings such as offices or sport complexes.

You participated in UNK's first ever 3 Day Startup event back in January. What was the biggest take away you gained from this experience?

From my 3 Day Startup experience I gained so much. My biggest take away from the whole experience was that the possibilities for business ideas are limitless. If you have a crazy idea and you are passionate about it; go out and pitch it to someone! They may love it or they may just give you awesome feedback which could only better your idea!

Read the Interview

Administration Department in Montana, USA. In addition, to teaching I have served on the administrative side in higher education in capacities as a director for multiple types of university programs, such as Study Abroad, Continuing Education, RN to BSN Program, Public Relations, as well as Technical and Intellectual Property. I have experience in global business administration as well as professional network creation and maintenance. My current research involves an extensive international network of public and private stakeholders focused on best practices of rural communities from the Midwest to the Arctic. These best practices focus on corporate social responsibility including environmental as well as social impact assessments and business support models such as market entry barriers. In addition, I have research projects looking at community branding, cultural differences of community gardens, as well as business and market analyses of micro- and medium-scale aquaponics systems.

Read the Interview

RECENT ACTIVITY AT THE CENTER

Events and Conferences and Workshops...Oh My!
Kearney Area Entrepreneurs met at UNK's College of Business & Technology on March 21st.

The REAP Women's Business Conference took place on April 12th in Grand Island.

The Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities Conference was hosted on April 19th-20th in McCook.
UNL’s Makerspace Workshop took place on April 17th and 18th in Lincoln.

Global Perspective

Krispy Kreme and Caribou owner is buying Panera Bread
In a $7.5 million deal, the owner of Krispy Kreme and Caribou is buying Panera Bread. The deal with JAB Holding Co. is to be finalized in the third quarter of 2017 and Panera will be privately held. JAB Holding also owns several additional coffee and breakfast companies, including Peet's Coffee & Tea and Einstein Bros Bagels. Read the Article

Upcoming Events

MAY EVENTS

Leadercast, Minden Opera House - May 5 @ 7:45am - 3:30pm
UNK Spring Commencement Ceremony, Health & Sports Center on campus - May 5 @ 10am
Young Professionals Network First Friday - May 5 @ 5:30pm
Business After Hours, First National Bank - May 11 @ 5:30