Junior Entrepreneurs in Training

The Delaware Center for Enterprise Development (DCED), in the College of Business at Delaware State University, works with secondary schools and community-based organizations throughout Delaware to provide entrepreneurial education to youth.

The JET program helps fulfill DCED’s mission to educate current and prospective entrepreneurs and enterprise managers through training programs, technical and managerial assistance and by providing access to capital. Youth participate in entrepreneurial activities through a variety of experiential learning programs. JET classes are taught by certified, skilled trainers. Students create and operate a JET business funded by DCED and they present a professional business plan to judges to compete for money to sustain their business.

Why Entrepreneurship Education?

DCED developed the Junior Entrepreneurs in Training (program in 1997) to provide entrepreneurial education for middle school and high school aged youth.

The knowledge and experiences learned in JET classes can enable students to be creative. Participation in the JET program and youth entrepreneurship in general exposes youth to ways to become self-sufficient and it is an investment in the future of business ownership, employment training and education. The skills and lessons are life lessons.

What is learned?

The JET Program is fashioned to provide youth the opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship; to teach youth basic concepts and skills required for entrepreneurship; and to help youth understand the relationship between academic subjects and the practical world of entrepreneurship.
How is Entrepreneurship Taught?

The JET program is taught using a combination of curricula from “Chasing the Dream” (CG International), the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) and the Kauffman Foundation. Classes are facilitated by a DCED team member or other trained facilitators.

Who funds the JET Program?

A combination of public and private organizations support the program. Funders include: the U.S. Department of Agriculture; HSBC; Roy Klein Foundation, Toyota Financial Services, Laffey McHugh Foundation and J.P. Morgan Chase.

JET Opportunities

School Year Program (October-April)
High School Students
Business Creation
Business Plan Competition w/Prizes
Statewide Participation
Schools & Community Centers
Annual Conference (April)
Statewide attendance
Middle and High School
Transportation available
Competitions, Prizes
Youth speaker
Summer Camp—July
Middle school youth
Business Creation
Business Plan Competition w/Prizes
Two-week day camp
On university campus
Transportation available

For more information
Call DCED at 302.857.6951 or visit the DCED website at www.desu.edu/dced