



UF Young Entrepreneurs for
Leadership & Sustainability
www.UFYoungEntrepreneurs.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECOGNITION OF YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS AND LEADERS AT UF

Gainesville, Fla. – The University of Florida will recognize 41 high school students at the Awards Lunch Celebration for the Young Entrepreneurs for Leadership & Sustainability pre-college summer program on Friday, July 25th from 12 to 2 p.m. Their parents and guests will join the students while they are recognized for their accomplishments during the five-week summer program held at the University of Florida.

These highly motivated and accomplished students participated in the only summer program in the United States developed specifically for high school students to learn about entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship, leadership and sustainability. UF Young Entrepreneurs for Leadership & Sustainability launched in 2007 with just 19 students, now, eight years later, over 160 students applied and there was a waiting list.

By the end of the program, these high school juniors and seniors will have completed two college level courses, performed over 75 hours of community service, each, and met with successful entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurs and community leaders. The students also participated in evening programs including a speaker series featuring distinguished leaders in the fields of entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship, a mentor program, as well as an abundance of activities and field trips that encouraged additional engaging experiences outside of the classroom.

In total the students in the program will have completed over 3,675 hours of community service in the Gainesville-area in just five short weeks, contributing \$81,364.50 of value to the local community. Students participated in community service activities with local organizations including Florida Organic Growers, Siembra Farm, Repurpose Project, Gainesville Compost, Forage Farm, YOPP, Alachua Conservation Trust, Gainesville Harvest and the Cade Museum for Creativity & Invention.

In 2014 the program ran entirely carbon neutral; they calculated their own footprint of 17.799 tons and engaged in environmentally related service (like planting trees with Alachua Conservation Trust) that offset 24.0351 tons, for a net footprint of -6.2361 tons. They will also be presented an award by Gainesville Compost for diverting 252lbs of produce from the waste stream (in addition to removing 1,269 lbs of trash from local waterways in partnership with Current Problems).

The program concludes on Friday, July 25th at noon with the Awards Lunch Celebration in the Presidents Room of Emerson Alumni Hall at 1938 W. University Ave. The students will be joined by their family members as well as many local community members who contributed to the program's success, for an audience totaling approximately 200 guests. Mr. David Lyons of Lakeland, UF c/o 1954, founder of Saddle Creek Logistics and YELS Scholarship Sponsor, will be the keynote speaker.

The program is sponsored by University of Florida's Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation in the Warrington College of Business Administration, in partnership with UF's Center for Precollegiate Education and Training, UF's Department of Sociology, UF's Center for Leadership & Service, UF's Office of Sustainability, UF's Innovation Academy, and is staffed entirely by undergraduate and graduate students and a faculty Director.

Please visit <http://www.ufyoungentrepreneurs.org/> for additional information on the program.

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If you would like additional information about this program or to schedule an interview with Dr. Kristin Joos, please contact info@ufyoungentrepreneurs.org or call 352-273-0355