



Business Incubation Center's Junior Achievement Team

Headed to National Competition

Community Business Partnership's Business Incubation Center Director, Debbie Dever has been mentoring the Junior Achievement of Greater Washington (JAGW) entrepreneur team "Pick-Me-Up" in a 17-week lean start-up program.

The JA of Greater Washington student entrepreneurs who created the company "Pick-Me-Up" were recently named as one of the top 10 finalists out of 700 to compete at the JA National Student Leadership Summit, which takes place on Capitol Hill in June.

The team is also one of the five finalists selected to compete for the prestigious Delta Airline Social Impact Award.

At the National Competition, JA students will have a chance to demonstrate their business acumen, creativity and entrepreneurial thinking in a competitive environment on a national stage—showcasing their companies to Members of Congress and business leaders.

The 17-week JA Company Program was open to High School students in the DMV who had an interest in learning more about entrepreneurship. The team was challenged to solve a problem in their local community, create a company, develop a minimum viable product, launch their product, make sales, develop an accounting system for the company and liquidate the company at the end of the program.

Team “Pick-Me-Up” consists of five passionate high school student entrepreneurs venturing out to create their first startup. Their company idea came about from a need they discovered within their own schools system.

According to the 2016 Fairfax Youth Survey Report, over 60,000 Fairfax County students face depressive symptoms every year, and over one-third of the students reported experiencing a high level of stress in the past month. The team realized the growing importance of mental health awareness in their schools and wanted to address this issue using the Pick-Me-Up Box. The box contains items to help teens and adults decompress and relax while providing professional contact resources to assist people in crisis.

The team realizes the importance of mental health awareness in their schools and upon liquidation, will donate \$500 to the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention.

Community Business Partnership and the Business Incubation Center wish team “Pick-Me-Up” great success at the National Competition.

