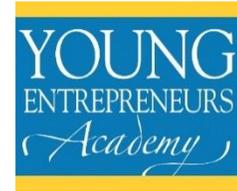


# MEDIA ALERT



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Local Teen to Compete in Shark Tank-Style Contest**

*More than \$70,000 in scholarships to be awarded*

**TACOMA, WA – April 26, 2018** – The Young Entrepreneurs Academy will host its 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Saunders Scholars National Conference and Competition on May 4, 2018.

Student semifinalists from YEA! chapters across the country will travel to the Rochester Institute of Technology to present their business ideas to a panel of judges.

Saunders Scholars is funded by entrepreneur and philanthropist E. Philip Saunders who began paving his business dreams while working at his dad's gas station as a teenager. He recognized the need to provide truck drivers with more than just a fill up. He went on to create a national chain of truck stops known as Travel Centers of America.

**WHO:** Colby Kurle, sophomore and local YEA! Semifinalist  
Graham-Kapowsin High School  
Graham, WA

**WHAT:** Colby was selected to compete in the final competition after successfully pitching his business concept to local business leaders in the YEA! Semifinals.

**WHY:** His business concept involves solving for a common problem faced by many student athletes. Colby's multi-vendor ecommerce site provides a solution for you to sell used athletic equipment. The site allows for peer to peer transactions and quick cash.

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### **THE YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY (YEA!)**

YEA! Is a national non-profit organization that teaches and empowers students ages 11 to 18 to launch and run their own real, small businesses through an exciting, projects-based program. Founded in 2004 with support from the Kauffman Foundation, today YEA! has empowered over 9,000 students at over 100 locations across the United States with international classes underway in India and Shanghai. YEA! graduates have been featured on TV's hit show Shark Tank, raised tens of millions of dollars in seed capital, won millions of dollars in college scholarships, have been featured in the nation's top publications, from The New York Times to Forbes Magazine, and have graduated from top business schools and colleges including the Harvard Business School, Wharton, Stanford, Cornell, RIT, Saunders, Simon, among others.

YEA! provides young people with the ability to recognize opportunities and shows them the power of their potential. YEA! students learn the magic formula on how to transform an idea—their idea—into an enterprise that creates value. YEA! teaches students how to unleash their imagination by introducing them to the formula of entrepreneurial success—at an early age.

### **THE YEA! SAUNDERS SCHOLARS COMPETITION**

Each year, students from every YEA! site across the country compete to be named America's Next Top Young Entrepreneur and win college scholarships at the YEA! Saunders Scholars National Competition. The Saunders Scholars program is named for and supported by Rochester area business magnate E. Philip Saunders. In 2008, the Saunders Foundation awarded YEA! a transformational gift to provide young entrepreneurs, innovators and inventors an opportunity to earn significant college scholarship awards.