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[EDITOR'S NOTE: A complete list of this year's
Y.E.S. for Arkansas winners can be found
at the end of this release]

For Immediate Release

**Arkansas' Young Entrepreneurs Honored
Elementary and Middle School Students Showcase Inventions and Business
Development Skills at 3rd Annual Youth Entrepreneur Competition.**

LITTLE ROCK, AR. (January 21, 2008) – Winners of the 3rd annual [Y.E.S. for Arkansas](#) statewide business plan competition for fifth to eight graders were announced on Friday, January 18, at McCain Mall in North Little Rock.

First place honors went to students from Lynch Middle School in Farmington, Christ the King in Little Rock and Albright Elementary in Newport.

This year, 229 teams made up of 1,145 students from across the state, took on the challenge of creating a business plan for an innovative concept so they could compete for an opportunity to turn their business ideas into reality.

Announced in November, the top 25 teams were tasked with creating a comprehensive marketing piece and display booth that showcases their product or service. The finalists competed for prizes in four categories: business plan, innovation, marketing and retail booth display. Winning team members for 1st place teams in each category received a \$100 cash prize. The teachers of the 1st place teams took home an additional \$500. Trophies were awarded for all 1st through 4th place winners in each category.

Arkansas's Youth Entrepreneur Showcase Business Plan Competition was initiated in 2005 as a collaborative project for middle school students. It is sponsored by the [Arkansas Economic Acceleration Foundation](#), an affiliate of the [Arkansas Capital Corporation Group](#), with support from Economics Arkansas the Wilbur D. Mills Education Service Cooperative, and Regions Bank. Annually, over 50 Arkansas business leaders have served as volunteer judges to assist in the selection of the qualifying team finalists.

"I am continually amazed by the innovation, creativity and business skills shown by the students in this competition," said C. Sam Walls, Arkansas Capital Corporation Group CEO. "Our hope is that we will instill an entrepreneurial spirit in these young people and help cultivate Arkansas' future business leaders."

This year's Y.E.S. for Arkansas winners are as follows:

Best Business Plan

- 1st Place: **Sweet Salts**. Randall G. Lynch Middle School (Farmington, AR).
Team Members: Raquel Chavez, Payton Journagon, Kati Scheyder, Danielle Winkle, Erica Witt. Teacher Advisor: Teresa Ellis.
- 2nd Place: **Sanctuary Sitters**. Beebe Middle School (Beebe, AR).
Team Members: Sarah Maxam, Scarlet Peterson. Teacher Advisor: Karla Tarkington.
- 3rd Place: **Pyro Guys, Inc.** Union Academy (El Dorado, AR).
Team Members: Kenneth Holan, Austin Posey, Dustin Scott, Elijah Tidball. Teacher Advisor: Sandra Maguire.
- 4th Place: **B.F.F. Bags**. Lakeside Middle School (Hot Springs, AR).
Team Members: Nikki Dunn, Elizabeth Dye, Sarah Munro. Teacher Advisor: Lisa Todd.

Most Innovative Product

- 1st Place: **Heartbeats**. Christ the King (Little Rock, AR).
Team Members: Mary Katherine Keller, Paul McKay, Griffin Marczuk. Teacher Advisor: Kathy House.
- 2nd Place: **All Star Accessories**. Washington Middle School (El Dorado, AR).
Team Members: Alex, Allison, Ashley, Ryan. Teacher Advisor: Beth Sullivan.
- 3rd Place: **Pyro Guys, Inc.** Union Academy (El Dorado, AR).
Team Members: Kenneth Holan, Austin Posey, Dustin Scott, Elijah Tidball. Teacher Advisor: Sandra Maguire.
- 4th Place: **The Sofa Seatbelt**. Lakeside Middle School (Hot Springs, AR).
Team Members: Marissa Bearss, Hazel Quinones, Bailey Tauth, Claire Trieschmann. Teacher Advisor: Lisa Todd.

Best Marketing Piece

- 1st Place: **Bird's Bed and Breakfast Co.** Albright Elementary (Newport, AR).
Team Members: Jacob Duval, Garrett Lassiter, Tristan Sweatt. Teacher Advisor: Bobbette Ray.
- 2nd Place: **C & M Locker Boutique**. Washington Middle School (El Dorado, AR).
Team Members: Claire, Morgan. Teacher Advisor: Beth Sullivan.

- 3rd Place: **Friends 'n' Fringes.** Washington Middle School (El Dorado, AR).
Team Members: Brinkley Haney, Jordan Tolbert. Teacher Advisor: Beth Sullivan.
- 4th Place: **All Star Accessories.** Washington Middle School (El Dorado, AR). Team
Members: Alex, Allison, Ashley, Ryan. Teacher Advisor: Beth Sullivan.

Best Retail Booth Display

- 1st Place: **Heartbeats.** Christ the King (Little Rock, AR).
Team Members: Mary Katherine Keller, Paul McKay, Griffin Marczuk. Teacher
Advisor: Kathy House.
- 2nd Place: **Healthy Kids R Us.** Cutter Morning Star School District (Cutter Morning
Star, AR). Team Members: Heidi Hughes, Carly Liggett, Dillon Meredith, Jacob
Moody, Kathleen Suit. Teacher Advisor: Deborah Guisti.
- 3rd Place: **C & M Locker Boutique.** Washington Middle School (El Dorado, AR).
Team Members: Claire, Morgan. Teacher Advisor: Beth Sullivan.
- 4th Place: **Extend -A- Belts.** Bald Knob Middle School (Bald Knob, AR).
Team Members: Courtney Collins, Hannah Cloyes, Samantha Fowler, Laura
McIntire. Teacher Advisor: Debbie Roberts.

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For more information about the Y.E.S. competition, contact [Piper Knutson](#) or [Kim Tran](#) of the Arkansas Capital Corporation at (800) 216-7237 or (501) 374-9247. You can also find additional information at www.yesforarkansas.com