Dear Community Leader...

Are you ready to engage the next generation of business leaders in your community? Looking for ways to support young hometown entrepreneurs in getting their start?

MU Build-a-Business Camp offers schools and community organizations an exceptional opportunity to support local students in starting down the path to entrepreneurship!

Brandon, age 15, had an idea for a children’s theatre company in his hometown. Five years later, he has started three small businesses, received awards, won a state competition, and mentored dozens of other youth on their business startups! Read Brandon’s story here

Kaitlyn, age 12, was motivated to help homeless veterans know others care and want to help them get back on their feet. Her idea led to “Saving Soldiers” — a social entrepreneurship venture which raised over $1,000. She presented a check to a local nonprofit organization last Veteran’s Day! Read Kaitlyn’s story here

Kayla and Sarah saw a business opportunity and presented their idea to their local school board and community supporters. “County Cupcakes” was born, and carried them all the way to earning $1,000 in a state entrepreneurship competition last summer! See Kayla and Sarah’s site here

What do all of these Missouri teens have in common? They are young entrepreneurs who got their start at MU Build-a-Business Camp — where youth biz ideas become reality!

At camp, youth team up with over 50 entrepreneurs, social media experts, MU faculty, and business advisors in “hands-on” real-world learning. Each teen develops an idea and a plan to launch a micro-enterprise from home, school, on the farm, or in their community. Campers come away with more confidence, connections, and a course of action to follow as young entrepreneurs!

Your organization can financially sponsor one or more local students to attend MU Build-a-Business Camp this summer, July 12-16. Local chambers, banks, economic development organizations, businesses, and/or civic groups can identify youth they wish to financially support, or partner with local schools to name students ready for camp. Overnight camper registrations are due by June 1, and local commuter campers can register until June 30.

For more information on how to sponsor one or more young entrepreneurs from your community, visit: 4h.missouri.edu/programs/summers/buildabiz/ Or contact: hennesss@missouri.edu, 573-884-6618.