
Sharing SBLA Success Stories

Mid Sask Community Futures Development

Corporation/Reda

4th Annual YBEX Awards



YBEX is a business planning competition which encourages Grade 7 through Grade 12 students to develop a business plan from a past business experience, or to complete a business plan for an existing business they may wish to own and operate, or to plan an entirely new business from their own imagination. The plans are judged upon creativity, imagination, marketing, management and finance.

Mid Sask Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC) is a non-profit organization governed by a volunteer board of directors from the communities in our region. The Board and Staff of the Mid Sask office believe that entrepreneurship is an important career option that our students need to explore. It is expected that one in five Canadian workers will be self-employed within the decade. With the advent of new technologies, it has also been demonstrated that provincial, national and international businesses, can successfully operate from our rural communities.

YBEX enables our youth to benefit from the occasion to explore business; it also provides the chance for rural communities to demonstrate local business opportunities and encourage youth to consider future participation in local economies. Linking education to business provides youth with an opportunity to expand their experience and develop employable skills and knowledge.

2005 marks the fourth year of the YBEX planning competition. Growing from 18 students at its inception in 2002, to 76 students now in 2005, the success and popularity of the program speaks for itself. This year, entries came from Elrose, Lucky Lake, Mildred, Outlook, Dinsmore, Beechy, Asquith and Holdfast, covering all corners of the Mid Sask Region. Evaluated on the criteria, two plans in each category were selected for first and second place, and the individual or group was awarded cash prizes, clocks and certificates. Each participating school also received cash awards of \$50.00 - \$100.00 for first and second place awards. Door prizes were also purchased and each student attending the banquet was eligible to win.

As in previous years, some students chose to use a teacher/mentor to assist them in writing their plans. It is not compulsory for the student to have a mentor or school support in order to enter into the competition; however, mentors are extremely beneficial to the success of the program and in helping students broaden their career horizons.

Participating mentors for 2005 were: David Larwood (Lord Asquith School), Armin Loftsguard (Milden Central School), Todd Devonshire (Lucky Lake High School), Darcy Busse (Outlook High School), Curtis Lockinger (Beechy High School), Linda Folk (Schell School in Holdfast) and Sue Lytle (Dinsmore Composite School).

Entrepreneurship is but one avenue for students to explore while investigating future career options. Students are fortunate to have teachers and schools that support and encourage learning through optional programs such as YBEX. We would like to encourage any organization, school or individual with an interest in youth learning to get involved with the YBEX program.