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# *Sharing SBLA Success Stories*

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## **Northwest Community Futures**

### **9<sup>th</sup> Annual YBEX Awards**

Northwest Community Futures held its 9<sup>th</sup> annual Youth Business Excellence awards on May 7, 2005, at the Gold Ridge Centre in North Battleford. There were 242 guests, students and educators in attendance at the event, 72 students competed for cash awards totaling \$3,225.00, and 17 regional schools were represented.



This year, YBEX celebrated Saskatchewan's Centennial by incorporating a "Youth-In-Business" Expo. Thirteen young entrepreneurs took advantage of a "captured market" opportunity to exhibit and sell their products and services.



YBEX is a competition that encourages young people or students in grades 6 to 12 to explore entrepreneurship and perhaps consider self-employment as a career option. For many youth in rural Saskatchewan, jobs are scarce. Self-employment is a way for young people to create their own jobs, earn income and develop valuable employability skills.

Twenty-eight percent of students participating in YBEX 2005 are already "in business" selling products and services through self-employment. Business include: recycling, environmental clean-up, video production, music, yard maintenance, fashion accessories, small livestock operations, food products, website design and desktop publishing.