
Sharing SBLA Success Stories

Sagehill Development Corporation

6th Annual YBEX Awards

Innovative Thinking
Students in the Sagehill Region are still "Taking Care of Business"

The Sagehill Development Corporation's YBEX program is in its 6th year running and is still going strong! The YBEX 2005 banquet was held at the Prairie Ursuline Campus in Bruno on April 23, 2005. There were more than 275 people in attendance at the YBEX awards banquet that honors students for their business ideas and achievements. This year's event involved 271 students, 13 schools and 13 teachers.

The purpose of YBEX is to recognize the outstanding entrepreneurial achievements of students in grades 6 through 12. Students are able to compete in the following areas:

"Dreamer Category" - where students have developed a business plan for a business idea they have;

"Took The Plunge Category" - where students report on the accomplishment of a business venture already in process; or the

"Spirit Awards" – where the best efforts of students, in particular components of their entry are awarded. The students and teachers are honored at the annual YBEX banquet and awards ceremony where they receive cash prizes and award keepsakes.

The YBEX Program has grown substantially over the last 6 years, with more than 1300 students participating in YBEX in the Sagehill region. Participation came from students in the following schools: Quill Lake, Englefeld, Watrous, Bruno, St. Louis, Drake, Imperial, Middle Lake, Rosthern, Lanigan, Colonsay, Aberdeen and Watson.

The YBEX participants continue to amaze the Sagehill staff and the judges, with the business ideas that they submit. Business ideas this year included the development of a board game – "The Real Life", which addresses the many questions and concerns these participants believe many young people have once they're finished high school.

Another entry was from an individual who builds stabilization ladders; his entry came complete with photos of the "ladder" as well as the results of the various testing performed to ensure the ladder could withstand certain conditions.

A third entry included a manufacturer of hand held stress reliever balls. The participant included a sample of the product as well as photos of various marketing efforts undertaken by the young entrepreneur to entice potential customers to visit her booth at the flea market!

“We’re extremely proud of the students in our region. They work hard, they’re innovative and for some of them, YBEX opens new doors” says Dianne Olchowski, CEO. “ Each year the number of entries we receive from students already operating their own business continues to grow. It is our sincere hope that programs such as YBEX help encourage and support our students.”

The board and staff at Sagehill feel that it is important to encourage entrepreneurship and small business ownership to people of all ages in the region. YBEX is an excellent program to do just that!