



YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE (YEC) SERIES

KEC State Competition Results for Ellsworth County!

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ELLSWORTH COUNTY YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE ANNOUNCES RESULTS!

Ellsworth KS – Following Ellsworth County Economic Development’s first ever local Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, state qualifiers Donley Brothers Mowing competed at the Kansas Entrepreneurship Challenge on Thursday, April 28, where they placed in the top tier among 62 other competitors.

Thaddeus, Cruz, and Owen Donley, founders and owners of Donley Brothers Mowing, took their business plan and presentation skills to Kansas State University, to the state competition sponsored by the K-State College of Business Administration, Network Kansas, and the Kansas Freemasons. The state sanctioned event allows each local winner to enter the contest, along with several selected wild card entries, and compete in mock board rooms and a tradeshow exhibit. Donley Brothers Mowing won the first place of \$1500 at the local YEC and the top tier place of \$1200 at the state competition.

“This is the first year that Ellsworth County has participated in the local YEC, and we are so proud of Thad, Cruz, and Owen for representing Ellsworth County as a top tier winner. The competition was phenomenal, and there were some great competitors, but Thad, Cruz, and Owen put in the work and effort to perform amazingly well. The community should be very proud that they represented Ellsworth County so well,” said Stacie Schmidt, local YEC event coordinator and Executive Director of Ellsworth County Economic Development. “This was a valuable experience for our young entrepreneurs, and they are building the skills and capacities to continue to be successful business owners in our community. I can’t wait to see this process unfold again next year.”

This is anticipated to be an annual opportunity for students, made possible through Ellsworth County Economic Development’s E-Community status through Network Kansas.

All of the local YEC participant performances can be viewed at www.growellsworthcounty.com under Programs>Youth Entrepreneurship. The state's performances were not recorded.

For more information, contact Stacie Schmidt at 785-472-9204 or ewcountyeconomicdevelopment@gmail.com. For more information about NetWork Kansas or the E-Community Partnership, visit www.networkkansas.com. Ellsworth County Economic Development became an E-Community in 2019 through a competitive bid process.