

Ready, Get Set Go!!! - - - - - On October 2nd
The NORTHWEST INDIANA YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR
ACADEMY

Held its kick off session at the Forum Offices in Portage. This Academy will meet quarterly outside of the everyday classroom to share ideas and student enterprise progress.

142 students participated along with 26 teachers, business people and community organization representatives to discuss student entrepreneurship studies and enterprises. The Youth Entrepreneur Academy is sponsored by The Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Center and The Northwest Indiana Forum and works in conjunction with regional school DECA groups, and entrepreneur and marketing classes.

Students and teachers attended the kickoff session, lasting from 9:30 – 1:30, from Porter County Career Center, Hanover Central High School, Lake Station High School, Hobart High School and North Newton High School. In January Munster High School and Griffith High School will be added to the schools receiving Entrepreneur Training Resource & Curriculum called NxLevel Buzz Biz. This is a student version of the current NxLevel Entrepreneur Training taking place across the region sponsored in partnership by local organizations and the SBDC.

While using this curriculum to increase their business skills and knowledge, these students are developing student enterprises based on the South Shore Poster Program. These students presented their business concept, business plan and presentation video for review and comment to a group of representatives from Bank One, Peoples Bank, SBDC, Advanced Systems, Lake County Youth Council and the Regional Development Company.

These presentations were based on businesses using the South Shore Millennium Memorabilia as products for their business enterprises. “ This not only focuses interest to Entrepreneurship but also Markets the Region and its most positive attributes through the poster products,” said Tom McDermott, President of the Northwest Indiana Forum.

The students themselves heard presentations about Regional Economic Development, Workforce Development, Brownfield Development Opportunities and the Quality of Life in Northwest Indiana from Tom

McDermott - NWI Forum, Linda Woloshansky – Center for Innovations, and Kay Nelson – NWI Center for Land Reuse NICLR, and John Davies - Woodlands Communications. But, as a special part of the program, the South Shore Art Poster Program was discussed by Bruce Cegur, Fred Semmler and Neil Kenitz, who work as artists on the program.

Educational curriculum and lesson plans will be developed through a project committee of the SBDC and NWI Forum with the assistance of the Times “Newspapers in Education” staff. These lesson plans will be available on the website mentioned below or through the Times in the near future. The final part of the day was spent by student teams creating a mock up T-Shirt which will be judged by the artists this winter and will in spring be given as an incentive to take the South Shore Poster Tour.

For additional information about the Academy, becoming a member school, or the South Shore Poster Project contact Sue Anderson or Sue Zlajic at (219) 763-6303 or view the project and tour on www.southshoreart.com