



Celebrate the 4th Annual
National Entrepreneurship Week & Entrepreneurship Week in Illinois

February 20-27, 2010

www.NationalEWeek.org

The Illinois State Board of Education and the Illinois Institute for Entrepreneurship Education encourage the celebration of Entrepreneurship Week through the exploration of entrepreneurship as a career path during the week of February 20-27, 2010. America's future (like our past) will depend on the creativity and self-reliance of entrepreneurs in Illinois and our country. The entrepreneurs of our future are in our schools today! They are in all levels and career pathways. Take this week to plan and provide an entrepreneurial activity to open the eyes of every student to the potential career opportunities of an entrepreneur. Bring focus to the developing technical and academic skills of EVERY student and how it can unfold into an entrepreneurial opportunity!

The Illinois Institute for Entrepreneurship Education and the Illinois State Board of Education, in partnership with the Consortium for Entrepreneurship, are dedicated to assisting educators to provide a wealth of educational resources as they prepare students to succeed in career pathways and continuous life-long learning experiences. Below you will find a few suggested activities. Please share this information with your educational partners today!

Suggested Activities

- Bring an entrepreneur into the classroom.
 - Ask students if they have any entrepreneurs in their family they can invite to speak to the class.
 - Contact a local Chamber of Commerce to refer local entrepreneur(s) from your community to visit.
 - Invite the Chamber of Commerce to speak to students about their role in economic development in your community.

- Have each student in the class interview an entrepreneur and present to the entire class.
- Use technology/video conferencing to bring an entrepreneur into the classroom.
- Use the attached list of prepared questions to interview entrepreneur(s).

- Entrepreneurship Week in Illinois Proclamation-attached
 - Share the Proclamation with all your educational partners.
 - Use the attached proclamation signed by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn at your event!

- Read Future CEO Stars magazine, available free online every month at www.fcsmag.org.
 - Sign up to receive the Future CEO Stars magazine and share it with others.
 - Each month young entrepreneurs from around the country write articles about their businesses to share information and encouragement to their peers. Read the success stories of these young entrepreneurs!
 - Look for the Teachers Guide on the website with a variety of critical and creative thinking activities and strategies all ages and skill levels.
 - Check out the students' videos and young entrepreneur social networking at www.entre-ed.org/what/fcs/participate.html

- Visit The National Entrepreneurship Week website at www.NationalEWeek.org
 - Share your own event photos, videos, and press coverage. Send to info@iiee.org and IIEE will post your activity on the Illinois celebration site.
 - Check out programs being offered in Illinois during the week of February 20-27, 2010 in celebration of National E Week:
http://www.nationaleweek.org/eweek_files/IllinoisSLT.doc

- To learn more about the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education , visit www.entre-ed.org
 - Learn more about the Forum Conference for teachers in the fall of 2010!
 - And so much more.....

*****See following page for “Questions for Entrepreneurs”*****



Questions for Entrepreneurs

Introductions:

Prepare a student in advance to introduce the guest Entrepreneur or ask the Entrepreneur to introduce themselves to the audience by answering the following questions:

1. Name, Business Name, years in business and a brief description of their business.

General Questions for Panel:

1. Why did you start your own business? What was your motivation to act on your desire to own your own business?
2. How did you get your business started?
3. What type of training did you have to start your business?
4. What distinguishes your business from other businesses in a similar field?
5. If you had to thank 2 people for the success of your business, who would those persons be?
6. Did anyone doubt your ability to get your business started? If so, how did you handle that situation?
7. What problem does your business solve for your customers?
8. Did you create a business plan for your business? If so, please describe that process? How have you used the business plan to help your business?
9. When did your business begin making a profit? What do you do with the profits of the business?
10. How did you finance the start-up of your business? Did you receive any venture capital/start-up cash to get your business started? If so, what type of investment was it (equity vs. debt financing)?

11. Do you have a relationship with a financial institution for business purposes such as a bank, credit union, etc? Why does a business need to have a relationship with a bank?

12. Please describe the pros and the cons of starting and operating your business?

13. Did you have to make any sacrifices to get your business started? If so, please describe.

14. Did you and do you have a mentor(s)? How did the relationship with your mentor help develop you personally/professionally?

15. If you were to start a business over again, would you?

16. Would you recommend running a business to other people? What advice would you give others who desire to start a business?