

Santa Monica High School “Charity Checks” Entrepreneurial Philanthropy Project

Project Purpose:

- To enhance macro economic lessons and the relationship to entrepreneurship in a free market economy.
- To increase knowledge of global economic issues.
- To inspire students to assist others and encourage a philanthropic mindset.

Students Involved: 16-18 year old juniors and seniors from Santa Monica High School’s Regional Occupational Program (R.O.P.) entrepreneurship programs, specifically Virtual Enterprise. Currently, the number of students involved will be:26 from one Virtual Enterprise class. These students are part of the internationally recognized Students for the Advancement of Global Entrepreneurship (SAGE) team, and are committed to sharing knowledge and inspiration to other students through presentations at competitions and to businesses through our mentorship program.

Teacher: Teri Jones, Virtual Enterprise, Project ECHO Instructor and SAGE Adviser

Current Status of Entrepreneurship Program at Santa Monica High School: Students from both Virtual Enterprise have focused on lessons and projects involving entrepreneurship and economics, at a local and global level. The students currently have started a new social venture: Tote-a-lly Awesome, a new environmentally friendly start-up company set up to financially help Heal the Bay, Santa Monica Red Cross and our own SAGE team. The Virtual Enterprise class also started a “virtual company” in order to compete with 200 other high schools, and students of this class are active officers and members of the Red Cross Club and Santa Monica Red Cross, having contributed over 2,500 volunteer hours this school year alone. As stated, all entrepreneurship classes make up the SAGE team, which focuses on for profit ventures that infuse social, environmental, civic and global awareness. Last year our team placed 2nd in the nation at the New York competition. In August, 2006 the Santa Monica SAGE team took the first place title in the SAGE world cup in Shanghai, China, competing alongside 11 other countries.

Project Outline:

The project will be set into three parts:

1. To gain knowledge on philanthropy through research of famous and local entrepreneurs who have created social ventures and/or their other philanthropic donations.
 - a. Students will call upon local businesses, research newspapers, magazines, libraries and use the internet to individually choose one entrepreneur to write a report on.
 - b. Students will make an oral presentation to the class on how this individual has made a social difference, what is their inspiration and give details of the social venture created or philanthropic donations made.
2. To review relevant economic lessons; how the global environment affects our own economic environment and how entrepreneurship affects individual, local and non local economies.

- a. Students will research communities both within the USA and in other countries that are economically disadvantaged and would benefit from residents starting entrepreneurial ventures.
 - b. Students will report to the class their top two communities or countries that they would like to assist economically. They will present the current status of the situation and the types of industry, agriculture and relevant economic and social issues.
3. To research organizations that assist economically disadvantaged communities through micro loans for entrepreneurial ventures or gives similar assistance.
- a. Students will research at least two organizations that offer assistance in the regions they have prioritized as wanting to help.
 - b. Students will write a report on which one organization they have chosen and why they feel this will give the greatest benefit to the region of their choice.
 - c. Students will then present their final choice in a power point report to the class.

Timeline:

April 28, 2007:	Students will be introduced to the project, with all rubrics, due dates and tasks to be completed. Charity Checks, philanthropy, social ventures and other school's completed projects will be discussed. Students will briefly review of how the economy is affected by entrepreneurship and how the global economy affects our own economy with teacher presentation.
April 29-30, 2007	Students will work in the computer lab to research several entrepreneurs and their social ventures or philanthropy. Students will choose one to write a brief report on and prepare oral presentation to class.
May 1, 2007	Students will present to class on the social work of their entrepreneur.
May 2, 2007	Students will research at least three communities or countries that are economically disadvantaged. At least two of these, if not all, must be in country other than the USA. They will write and prepare a brief presentation on the status of the community, its main source of support/income and how they feel it can be helped. Students will then choose their top two communities or regions in the world they would like to help.
May 5, 2007	Students will make short presentations on their regions.
May 6-8, 2007	Research will begin research on non profit organizations that assist economically disadvantaged regions of the world. Students will complete short written report and make power point presentation incorporating the entire project and research conducted.
May 12-13, 2007	Students will present their power point presentations and explain their choice on which charity they would like to donate to.