



UF Young Entrepreneurs for
Leadership & Sustainability
www.UFYoungEntrepreneurs.org

Contact: Kristin Joos
Telephone: 352-273-0355
E-mail: info@ufyoungentrepreneurs.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER PROGRAM FEATURES PANEL OF SUCCESSFUL ENTREPRENEURS & SOCIAL ENTREPRENEUR AT STARTERSPACE

GAINESVILLE Fla. – StarterSpace in Downtown Gainesville will host a panel featuring successful local entrepreneurs & social entrepreneurs the evening of July 11.

The discussion will conclude the third week of a five-week pre-college summer program for high school juniors and seniors, UF Young Entrepreneurs for Leadership & Sustainability, known as YELS.

On June 25, UF welcomed 40 highly motivated and accomplished students from all over the state of Florida to participate in the only summer program in the United States developed specifically for high school students to learn about entrepreneurship, social entrepreneurship, leadership and sustainability. UF Young Entrepreneurs for Leadership & Sustainability launched in 2007 with just 19 students; This year, more than 160 students applied, and there was a waiting list.

During the summer program, the students complete two college-level courses, perform more than 80 hours of community service each and meet successful entrepreneurs, social entrepreneurs and community leaders. Students participate in evening programs including a speaker series featuring notable leaders in the fields of entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship, a mentor program, as well as a plethora of activities and field trips to allow for additional engaging and interacting experiences outside of the classroom.

As part of the YELS Speakers Series, the July 11 panel discussion will focus on entrepreneurship and includes seven notable panelists from the Gainesville community: Byron Young is the founder of Coudaroyo, Kristen Hadeed is the founder and owner of Student Maid, Chad and Allison Paris are the founders of Parisleaf, Rob Castellucci is the founder of RoomSync, Sylvia Lai is the founder of Bambou Heart, and Ty Parker is the co-founder of SpinChill.

The event is hosted at StarterSpace from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The discussion will be moderated by David Whitney, Entrepreneur in Residence in the University of Florida's College of Engineering and who formerly worked in venture capital in Silicon Valley.

The program is sponsored by University of Florida's Center for Entrepreneurship & Innovation in the Warrington College of Business Administration, in partnership with UF's Center for Precollegiate Education and Training, UF's Office of Sustainability, UF's Center for Leadership & Service, UF's Innovation Academy, and NobleHour.com. The program is staffed entirely by undergraduate and graduate students, under the direction of Dr. Kristin Joos, coordinator of UF's Innovative Sustainability & Social Impact Initiative (<http://warrington.ufl.edu/fire/entrepreneurship/cei/socialimpact.asp>).

See <http://www.ufyoungentrepreneurs.org/> for additional information on the program.

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If you would like additional information about this program or to schedule an interview with Dr. Kristin Joos, please contact info@ufyoungentrepreneurs.org or call 352-273-0355