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GOOD NEWS - State Career Tech Education Leaders Say "Entrepreneurship Education Skills Are Important for the Future"

Columbus, Ohio - February 21, 2012 The 6th Annual National Entrepreneurship Week is featuring local entrepreneurs such as **Joe Russell of Russell's Cycling + Fitness**, a bicycle shop in Washington, IL. This entrepreneur demonstrated his interest in mentoring the students of the Business Entrepreneurship Class at Washington Community High School, in the winning video interview for "Hot Shot Entrepreneurs". YouTube link ... <http://youtu.be/JWoeY0d-omc> The competition was sponsored by the Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education with the winning video posted at www.entre-week.org.

Entrepreneurship Education, like this Illinois program, is alive and well in most of the United States, with various types of action being taken to support entrepreneurship as a career choice in the public schools of different states.

SURVEY OF STATES - To honor the 6th annual celebration of National Entrepreneurship Week, the host (The Consortium for Entrepreneurship Education) conducted a survey of the state education leaders to determine "THE STATE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION, 2012". The goal was to explore where each state stands on providing entrepreneurial experiences with emphasis on K-12 programs.

Most significant from the survey, 80% of the states said "Entrepreneurship skills are extremely important to the future." However, for the most part, these state leaders have not taken major steps to include entrepreneurship education in the curriculum. Important results included:

- More than two-thirds of the states said "they have standards that include entrepreneurship competencies". Even more said "they offer separate classes in entrepreneurship" (76%), and almost all (90%) said "the colleges offered entrepreneurship education".
- When asked if their teacher training/certification had requirements for teacher preparation to support entrepreneurship education, 80% said "no" or they were "not sure". When you consider that most teachers have not been entrepreneurs it seems obvious that this is a major area of needed teacher preparation.
- When asked how entrepreneurship was taught in their state, 75% said "optional use of business plan development in various courses" followed by 44% that said "they have summer camps for

selected students". The concepts of "problem-based learning activities", a series of "entrepreneurial experiences", "preparation for questions on state tests", and "opportunities for advanced placement credit" were not identified as frequently used. The dependence on a written business plan as preparation for starting a business is a limiting educational approach. However this is often the only answer in both high schools and colleges.

- The Consortium is delighted that 78% of the states reporting, said that data from the Consortium's newsletters focusing on the FORUM, webinars, and websites regarding the development of the entrepreneurial climate have been used to enhance entrepreneurial education in their state.

We invite all interested in nurturing the entrepreneurial mindset with American youth to see the entire report, entitled "THE STATE OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION 2012" at www.entre-week.org under "Hot Topics". We are particularly encouraged by the state leadership that is now moving toward including entrepreneurship competencies in state educational standards.

CELEBRATIONS EVERYWHERE - Across the nation there are major events being staged this week at state and local venues during this, the 6th annual National Entrepreneurship Week. Educators and entrepreneurs alike recognize the importance of the contributions of American risk-takers as they create jobs and build the economy. Many governors are showing their support for "free enterprise" with state proclamations for the Week. The Consortium's website www.entre-week.org is a collection of pictures, stories, and events created by the network of those that believe....

"Entrepreneurs are not 'born' ... rather they 'become' through the experiences of their lives."

Parents, teachers, entrepreneurs and community leaders everywhere will want American Youth to seek their opportunities to become self-reliant and develop the skills to create their own future. LET'S ALL CELEBRATE THE 6TH ANNUAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK, February 18 - 25, 2012!

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