



## Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) Hosts Annual St. Louis BizCamp

*Second annual event follows successful expansion to local school districts*

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Alyssa Miller [alyssa.miller@nfte.com](mailto:alyssa.miller@nfte.com) Cell: 973.615.1292  
Jim Fotenos [Jim\\_fotenos@mastercard.com](mailto:Jim_fotenos@mastercard.com) Cell: 636.439.9683

**ST. LOUIS** – For the second consecutive year, the [Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship](#) (NFTE) has joined forces with a group of St. Louis area organizations to host the *Start it Up St. Louis BizCamp*, an interactive business camp for 50 high school youth.

The BizCamp opens today and runs through June 27 with participating students coming from [College Bound](#), [Ferguson Youth Initiative](#), [inspireSTL](#), [St. Louis Science Center](#), the [Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis](#), and [Riverview Gardens School District](#). [MasterCard](#) and the [Saint Louis University Center for Entrepreneurship](#) are the main sponsors of this year's program.

The event gives students the opportunity to learn business skills from local entrepreneurs and professionals. The BizCamp is available to students free of charge, thanks to financial support from MasterCard.

"We are proud to be a part of St. Louis's dynamic and growing entrepreneurial ecosystem," said Amy Rosen, President and CEO of NFTE. "The earlier we can develop the entrepreneurial mindset in our youth, the better."

NFTE Vice President, Jane Walsh who has led the organization's expansion into St. Louis added, "NFTE students draw on the business literacy skills they learn today in a variety of ways in the future – in school, in the workplace, and as aspiring innovators and entrepreneurs. NFTE students become the foundation for a strong local economy for years to come."

In order to supplement the learning they do in the classroom, NFTE students visit area businesses, play educational games and learn from hands-on activities to teach entrepreneurship and business concepts.

"Connecting classroom lessons and real-world experience is critical to not only tomorrow's business leaders, but to students in all fields," said Amanda Gioia, vice president, MasterCard. "MasterCard works with organizations like NFTE to provide students with the opportunity to build the skills necessary for successful careers. The NFTE BizCamp is a great example of a program that helps support both financial literacy and entrepreneurship."

Since its launch in St. Louis last summer, NFTE's programs have grown from one BizCamp into school-based curriculum at five high schools in the Ferguson-Florissant, Riverview Gardens and Jennings School Districts, and trained eleven area educators.

NFTE has worked with more than 200 local students and continues to provide even more students with the opportunity to learn business fundamentals. A participation goal of 2,500 students has been set for 2014/2015, which will be made possible through the support of MasterCard, Emerson, Ernst & Young LLP, and individuals including Maxine Clark – founder of Build-A-Bear Workshop.

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**About the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship** Since 1987, the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) has taught and inspired more than 500,000 young people to pursue educational opportunities, start their own businesses, and succeed in life. By providing entrepreneurship education programs relevant to the real world, NFTE empowers students to own their education and future success. NFTE has programs in 19 U.S. communities and 12 countries. To learn more visit [www.nfte.com](http://www.nfte.com), like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/NFTE](https://www.facebook.com/NFTE) and follow us on Twitter at [@NFTE](https://twitter.com/NFTE)