Students learn entrepreneurship skills through Extension partnership

**AT A GLANCE**

Students developed important life skills making them valuable future entrepreneurs to strengthen rural communities.

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**The Situation**
Entrepreneurs are a driving factor in the growth of rural communities. Many youth in rural communities are not equipped to return to rural communities to start a business and existing jobs are scarce. Youth are leaving their rural roots to look for employment in urban areas.

**Our Response**
In an effort to equip youth with life skills that would make them viable entrepreneurs, the Lemhi County’s UI Extension office partnered with the Salmon High School. The Lemhi County’s UI Extension office offered a 6 month course in starting a small business. Eight Salmon High School students were able to participate in the course for elective credits.

**Program Outcomes**
Youth completed Levels 1, 2 and 3 of the national 4-H Curriculum “Be the ‘E’” as well as operating a small business. Youth designed, produced and sold advertisements in the Lemhi County Fair Exhibitor’s Handbook. The project taught them how to use their learned skills in a real life situation and earned the group over $5,000 in ad sales.

Youth also developed a business proposal based on a hobby or interest and presented to the group as a final project. Youth reported “I can achieve higher goals than I thought.” and that “I can teach others about (entrepreneurship) it.” The reported enjoying the class and learning how to be an entrepreneur. They also enjoyed the hands on application of their skills. One youth said “I learned all about business and what is hard about running and starting a business.” The class did more than impact yours life skills and enhance their entrepreneur ability. One youth said “I learned I am capable of far more than I ever thought.”

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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