

The Montague Reporter

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Teens Train for the Future

TURNERS FALLS – The Brick House and the Young Entrepreneurs Society (YES) will offer the award-winning "BizVenture!" entrepreneur and job-skills training program for area youth, February 24th - June 4th. A "pizza and info" session will be held on Wednesday, February 24th, 5:00-6:00 p.m. at Crocker Studios, 34 Second Street in Turners Falls.

A non-profit organization, YES has helped approximately 200 area young people, ages 11-21, start businesses and launch careers since its inception in Orange in 1998. BizVenture! will meet Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:00-5:30 p.m. in Turners Falls beginning February 26th, and will include visits with area business owners and the creation of an on-line business. Also included is an overnight trip to New York City, where participants will meet with successful young entrepreneurs and visit the NY Mercantile Exchange, Wall Street, the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE), and the city's wholesale districts. The program will be facilitated by Vicky Lynde, a NFTE- and state-certified teacher.

Evaluation of program alumni shows that participants increased their overall business knowledge by 69%. 85% identified a special talent they could use to earn a living; 91% reported that they felt



On January 31st, local teens Jameson Bednarski, Justin Dion, Argenis Cotto raced obsolete computers to draw attention to the need for high-speed internet access.

they knew enough after the program to start their own business and make a profit; and 100% said they planned to go on for more education.

Suggested donation towards BizVenture! tuition is \$25-\$200 (based on household income) and \$50 for the NY field trip. Optional college credit exam is \$25 and \$60 for 1-3 credits. Registration deadline is February 21st. Applications are available at the Hot Spot Teen Center, 177 Avenue A, in Turners, on the YES website at www.yes-inc.org, or by calling Sheri Lenois toll-free at (866) 263-5798.