OVERVIEW
Purdue Extension and Indiana 4-H Youth Development, in partnership with the Purdue Foundry, are offering an opportunity to incoming Indiana high school juniors and seniors who demonstrate an aptitude in the areas of math, science and technology along with an interest in entrepreneurship.

Selected students will attend the five-day, high-tech focused Purdue Entrepreneurship Academy at Purdue University’s West Lafayette campus June 19-24, 2016. The Academy is coordinated by Indiana 4-H staff with critical assistance from Purdue University faculty, industry leaders and successful high-tech business entrepreneurs. Students work in teams on a fundamental business case to determine the best way for a business to compete, identify capital needs to start a business and devise a plan for managing a business successfully.

Participants are provided with business cases, two days of instruction and necessary materials to assist them in the successful completion of the program. On the final day, teams give a 15-minute investor pitch to a panel of judges in a business plan competition setting. Tuition vouchers to Purdue University are awarded to the top three teams whose presentations are judged as having the most solid business strategy and potential for success. Students who complete the program will receive credit toward the Entrepreneurship Certificate program at Purdue University.

GOAL
The goal of the Entrepreneurship Academy is to provide innovative math, science and technology-based business and life skills that empower young people and offer them unique opportunities and real-world experiences.

ENTREPRENEURS
High-tech entrepreneurs representing a variety of technology backgrounds, expertise and products will mentor the teams throughout the week. The teams also will hear from guest presenters who will share their stories of success and lessons learned.

TOURS
Students will tour the Purdue Research Park of West Lafayette, which is home to more than 200 start-up and established businesses. The park is recognized as the greatest cluster of technology-based ventures in the state of Indiana. During the tours, students will visit high-tech companies and observe entrepreneurs in action.

Students will also have an opportunity to tour Purdue University and Discovery Park to learn more about activities on campus.

NOMINATION PROCESS
All incoming Indiana high school juniors and seniors meeting the basic criteria are eligible to be nominated. Students must be nominated by a teacher, principal, Purdue Extension educator, or community leader.
CRITERIA
The student must demonstrate an aptitude in the areas of math, science and technology along with an interest in entrepreneurship.

COMPETITIVE CRITERIA
Following are examples of what to look for when nominating a student:
  - Creativity and initiative
  - Recognition by peers as a leader
  - Ability to work with others and respect diversity
  - Overall academic strength; takes challenging courses and excels in them

NOMINATOR’S RECOMMENDATION
A written statement from the nominator certifying the student’s character, conduct and qualifications is requested. Explain why you believe he/she is a great candidate for the program.

STUDENT ESSAY
A 250-word essay from the nominated student stating what he/she expects to learn at the Academy.

COST AND COMMITMENT
The Purdue Entrepreneurship Academy will provide tuition, room, board and instructional materials needed to complete the program. Families are responsible for the $150 registration fee, transportation to and from the program and money for miscellaneous expenses while at the Academy (souvenirs from the bookstore, etc.). Students must remain in residence for the full five-day program. They are expected to arrive promptly and participate fully in all seminars, workshops and activities.

CONTACT INFORMATION
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