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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FINAL DAY FOR MACON AREA STUDENTS TO APPLY TO
YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS ACADEMY PROGRAM**

MACON, Ga – Today, August 31, 2017, marks the final day applications will be accepted for the second year of Macon's Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!), which is an innovative after school program that teaches middle and high school students how to launch their own business, be their own boss and make their own money.

The Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce launched YEA! Macon in 2016. The inaugural program graduated 20 students, from Macon area public, private and home schools, who launched 16 new companies and received \$12,000 in funding from local leaders to help start their businesses. Over 50 community volunteers also participated in YEA! Macon, as guest speakers, mentors and field trip hosts. Macon's program received a YEA! National award for the success of its first year as well.

During the second year of YEA! Macon, which is made possible by Macon Chamber sponsors, including the Peyton Anderson Foundation, students will meet each Tuesday, at Mercer University's Innovation Center, from October 2017 through May 2018, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Throughout the 30-week program, students will be guided by local entrepreneur instructors to develop business ideas that turn their passion in profit, mentored by local community leaders to develop business plans and pitches that put their ideas into action, then present their businesses at an Investor Panel event to receive real funding to help start their companies. Then, they will finalize the launch of their own businesses and participate in a Trade Show event, which will be their first large-scale opportunity to connect with customers and make sales.

All Macon area middle and high school students, attending public, private or home schools, are welcome to apply for the program. No business idea is necessary, just a desire to learn how to launch a company.

To apply for YEA! Macon, visit www.bit.ly/yeamaconapp. Deadline is August 31, 2017. For more information about the program, visit www.bit.ly/yeamacon or www.yeausa.org. To watch a video overview for the program, visit www.bit.ly/yeamaconvideo.

About the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce

Established in 1861, the Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce is the area's largest business services organization and primary advocate for the Macon business community. The Chamber supports the growth and development of business by offering networking and marketing opportunities, providing valuable benefits to its members, advocating for legislative issues that will promote a healthy business climate, and participating in the economic development efforts for Macon-Bibb. For more information, visit www.maconchamber.com.

About the Young Entrepreneurs Academy

The Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!) is a 501(c)3 offering groundbreaking year-long classes that teach middle and high school students how to start and run their own businesses. Throughout the class, students develop business ideas, write business plans, conduct market research, pitch their plans to a panel of investors for startup funds, and launch and run their own, fully formed companies and social movements. The project-based program empowers students to take charge of their futures.

Founded in 2004 at the University of Rochester with support from the Kauffman Foundation, YEA! today serves thousands of students nationwide. In 2011, the United States Chamber of Commerce Foundation became a national sponsor and partner of the Academy to help celebrate the spirit of enterprise among today's youth and tomorrow's future leaders.

YEA! bridges the business and educational communities to fulfill its mission of teaching more students how to make a job, not just take a job. YEA! is made possible by the Kauffman Foundation, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation and E. Philip Saunders Foundation. For more information, visit www.yeausa.org.

About the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation is dedicated to strengthening America's long-term competitiveness and educating the public on how the free enterprise system improves society and the economy.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than 3 million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations.

About Sam's Club

Sam's Club®, a division of Walmart Stores, Inc. (NYSE: WMT), is a leading membership warehouse club offering savings and services to millions of members in 651 clubs in the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Sam's Club offers affordable access to innovative services for families and small business owner, including travel, payroll and HR services, protection plans, legal solutions, cash rewards and more. To learn more about time and money with Sam's Club, visit www.samsclub.com/services.