

Extension Develops Business and Community Leaders

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

 University of
Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment



Extension Partners with Local Business to Customize the American Private Enterprise Systems Program

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It starts with us



During the Kentucky Youth Seminar, participants developed recipes at the UK Food Systems Innovation Center.



American Private Enterprise Systems participants discover the variety of businesses and industries in their community and the economic impact.

The American Private Enterprise Systems (APES) is developed and coordinated by the UK College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Office of Diversity with support from the Kentucky Council of Cooperatives (KCC). APES is conducted by Extension agents in 20 Kentucky counties for high school juniors and seniors. The courses are led by local community and business leaders who provide guidance in developing the material. The youth learn skills and qualities that employers are seeking in the evolving competitive job market, as well as citizenship and leadership.

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Greenup County's 44 participants represented three school districts. The group's meeting with local business leaders culminated with a field trip to local businesses including Great Lakes Minerals and Print My Threads. Emphasis was on business development and employee safety.

In 2018, **Marion County** Extension received \$500 to start a local APES program. **Marion County** partnered with the school system, the Family Resource Center, Inter County Energy, Central Kentucky Ag Credit, and other local business people to create a successful program. **Hopkins County** Extension collaborated with the school district, Chamber of Commerce, and a local bank to select students to participate in their local APES program. As a result of the **LaRue County** APES program, 40% of the participants expressed a desire to start a business in the future.

At the conclusion of the local program, top scorers are selected to advance to the APES System Youth Seminar (APESYS). Top scoring youth have the opportunity to attend the American Private Enterprise System Youth Seminar (formerly known as the Kentucky Youth Seminar). The seminar hosts youth from Kentucky and nine other states. Participants, at the American Private Enterprise System Youth Seminar, solve board cases, take exams, tour local Kentucky businesses, attend workshops, network with students from other states, and have the opportunity to obtain college scholarships. During 2018, \$10,500 in college scholarships were awarded to 16 Kentucky youth with the highest combined scores from group and individual activities.

APES helps prepare students for an active role in business through direct involvement with local business and professional leaders who encourage an exchange of ideas between the groups. In doing so, students received hands-on experience with career opportunities in business and provided leadership training as participants learned about applied American business practices.