



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local high school students share innovative business ideas at second annual showcase

March 20, 2025 (Winona Lake, IN) – The community is invited to support and celebrate local student entrepreneurs at the second annual Kosciusko Student Venture Challenge: 2025 Student Showcase on Thursday, April 17 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Rodeheaver Auditorium in Winona Lake (901 Park Ave, Winona Lake, IN 46590).

The event is hosted by [Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program \(HELP\) Kosciusko](#) and [Believe in a Dream, Inc.](#)

The Kosciusko Student Venture Challenge (KSVC) is a customized 8-week entrepreneurship bootcamp for local high school students. Student programming is facilitated by entrepreneur coach Steve Franks of Believe in a Dream, and students from Lakeland Christian Academy, Tippecanoe Valley, Whitko, Warsaw, and Wawasee High Schools are participating in the program.

"It's been amazing to see this program expand, with even more schools and students participating this year," said Kosciusko County Coordinator Amy Roe. "These students have put in tremendous effort, and I couldn't be prouder. I invite you to come out, learn about their businesses, and support these young entrepreneurs!"

The need to increase support for youth entrepreneurship was identified through the HELP program. The goal of the program is to grow and strengthen the local entrepreneurial ecosystem by introducing high school students to an entrepreneurial mindset and foundational business principles.

"The Whitko Career Academy (WCA) students in the Kosciusko Student Venture Challenge have worked hard over the past year, building their business ventures from the ground up. Their dedication, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit are truly inspiring. We are excited for the April celebration in a Showcase event to witness what business ideas they have brought to life," said Sandy Benedict, Work Based Learning Specialist & Workplace Specialist Mentor at WCA.

The program consisted of eight 2-hour experiential business bootcamp sessions covering initial business idea development, elevator pitches, prototyping, marketing and lead generation, setting financial goals, offering and receiving peer-to-peer feedback, and more.

"Last year's Student Showcase was a great evening and is a hard act to follow," said program facilitator Steve Franks of Believe in a Dream. "But this year's Showcase features EVEN MORE students from MORE high schools in the county! I'm really proud of their work and how they've grown as entrepreneurs."



5 p.m. - Doors open

5:15 pm. - 5:30 p.m. – Welcome, Amy Roe, Kosciusko County Community Coordinator

5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. – Business Expo

7:15 p.m. – Award ceremony

7:45 p.m. - Closing remarks, Steve Franks, Believe in a Dream

"This has been a challenging, but engaging experience this year. I've enjoyed working with different mentors and business leaders throughout this process. Overall, I've had a good time getting to know so many different people in Kosciusko County," said Tippecanoe Valley student participant Isaac Whetstone.

This event is FREE to attend and attendees should **RSVP** via Eventbrite by **Monday, April 7** here: <https://bit.ly/KSVC2025>.

Event sponsors include: HELP Kosciusko, Believe in a Dream, Don Wood Foundation, and the Kosciusko Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO) as Lead Sponsors; Dekko Foundation and Elevate Ventures, Gold Sponsors; Core Mechanical, Award Sponsor; and 58 Creative, Grace College, Lakeland Christian Academy, Tippecanoe Valley High School, Warsaw Community High School, Wawasee Community High School, and Whitko Community High School as Supporting Sponsors.

Stay tuned for more updates on the Kosciusko Student Venture Challenge, and opportunities to support the program in the future! For updates on HELP Kosciusko visit www.kcgov.com and follow HELP Kosciusko on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/HELPKosciusko) @HELPKosciusko.

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About the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP) in Kosciusko County

The Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP) from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) supports communities directly by building capacity, creating a peer network system between communities participating in the program, developing a strategic investment plan and providing access to set-aside funding. HELP is rooted in four pathways: advancing e-connectivity, promoting community wellness, enhancing quality of place, and strengthening local economies.

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