



News Release

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SBA and HOBY Help Young Entrepreneurs from Around the World Explore Business Start-Up

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Small Business Administration is taking part this week in the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) 2008 World Leadership Congress (WLC) at George Washington University. SBA is cosponsoring the business component for this year’s WLC student ambassadors, “Entrepreneurship: Igniting the Passion Within,” which highlights facets of youth entrepreneurship worldwide.

The entrepreneurship forum is being attended by nearly 500 student ambassadors from around the world, taking part in a week-long educational program, July 25 to August 2, which focuses on key areas including business, government, international affairs, education, science and technology, and media. The forum explores key issues and opportunities for youth entrepreneurship and includes interactive panel discussions with successful young entrepreneurs to provide mentoring, guidance and experience.

“The SBA is privileged to participate for our third year with the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership as it celebrates 50 years of notable service,” said Acting Administrator Jovita Carranza. “HOBY recognizes the value of reaching out to students early, and SBA helps to nurture the entrepreneurial development in young people that provides positive resources that can impact their homes, schools and communities.”

The SBA’s 2008 *National Small Business Person of the Year*, Shawn Boyer of Snagajob.com, took part in a panel discussion *Start-Up Early* on the rewards and trials of entrepreneurship. Boyer, a young lawyer, turned his small business idea into a multi-million dollar Web site when a friend asked for his help in finding an internship. He was surprised to find few sites geared toward internships and hourly jobs, and so his idea was born. Today, the company has become a hugely successful part-time and hourly job-posting site, connecting millions of registered job seekers with active job postings.

Another key component of the entrepreneurship forum features a hands-on entrepreneur workshop that allows each student to develop a new venture idea, an “elevator pitch” and a business presentation. Winners for the best business venture idea and presentation will be selected from each break-out cluster to present before the entire group of student ambassadors.

HOBY was founded in 1958 by veteran actor Hugh O’Brian to provide leadership development opportunities that educate and empower young people. O’Brian emphasized that it is important to teach young people “how to think, not what to think, and what the thinking process is.” This year’s student ambassadors represent 16 countries from around the globe, and each of the 50 states.

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