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Help Your Students Identify Career Paths By Exploring Entrepreneurial Ecosystems

What are Entrepreneurial Ecosystems?

Entrepreneurial ecosystems are networks of programs and organizations that support entrepreneurs.

As an active member of the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs, and many other vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystems, the MaRS Discovery District routinely comes across resources, programs, and support systems designed to nurture young innovators.

Below are some examples of this support, which you and your students can use to explore possible next steps when building a career as an entrepreneur.

Why are they Valuable?

Each student is unique, so no single organization or program can fully prepare all students for the world of entrepreneurship. This is why it is essential to be aware of, and utilize, the many interconnected options that support youth enterprise.

It is also important to note that collaboration is vital in the world of entrepreneurship. Young entrepreneurs are constantly exchanging lessons with their peers - and entrepreneurship programs must do the same. MaRS continues to collaborate with other innovative programs and resources, and is happy to recommend them to you.

More Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Your Students

COMPETITIONS & START-UP CAPITAL FOR YOUTH

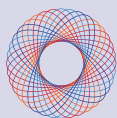
Young Entrepreneurs, Make Your Pitch

- An annual competition in which Ontario high school students pitch their business ideas in a two-minute video
- 20 finalists are awarded a trip to Toronto to present their ideas live in front of a panel of judges from the entrepreneurial community
- 6 winners receive automatic entry into the Summer Company program (see below), a \$750 education voucher from Desire2Learn, a Nymi Band from Nymi and a Muse brain-sensing headband by InteraXon
- [Click here for full details and dates](#)

Summer Company

- Provides up to \$3,000 to high school and university students to start their own business in Ontario over the summer holidays
- Includes advice and mentorship from local businesses to help students get their summer company off the ground
- [Click here for full details and application process](#)

More opportunities on the next page...



**Entrepreneurial
Thinking Toolkit**
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Help Your Students Identify Career Paths By Exploring the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem

More Entrepreneurship Opportunities for Your Students (continued)

ORGANIZATIONS

DECA

- Schools that become DECA members gain access to a network of over 200,000 students and educators and become eligible to participate in a series of entrepreneurial projects that can be integrated into existing school instruction
- Provides resources relating to marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe
- [Click here to learn more about bringing DECA to your high school](#)

SAGE Canada

- Provides educational workshops, competitions, and networking events
- Focus on social entrepreneurship in high school aged youth
- [Click here to learn more about SAGE's entrepreneurship modules and workshops](#)

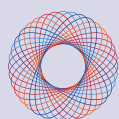
OTHER ENTREPRENEURIAL TOOLKITS

My Sojo

- A website containing resources for youth looking to start their own social enterprise
- The Sojo toolkit for youth is a natural complement to the resources found on the MaRS Entrepreneurial Thinking toolkit for educators
- [Click here to explore the Sojo Toolkit](#)

The MaRS Entrepreneur's Toolkit

- An extensive database of resources for anyone wishing to start a business or learn more about entrepreneurial education
- [Click here to access the MaRS Library](#), which contains articles, templates, reports, workbooks, reference guides and videos covering a range of entrepreneurial topics
- [Click here for access to the Entrepreneurship 101 program](#), including access to 24 full length lectures



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