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**Teenagers Entrepreneur Summer Camp Underway in Irvine;  
40 High School Students ("TeenPreneurs") Preparing  
Business Plans for *Fish Bowl* Business Plan Competition  
*Teen Entrepreneur Academy First of its Kind in Orange County***

Stephanie and 7 classmates from Century High in Santa Ana are among the 40 high schoolers attending Concordia University's inaugural [Teen Entrepreneur Academy \(TEA\)](#). The summer Academy (July 15-20) caters to aspiring young business owners. The curriculum encourages inventiveness and creativity, teaching entrepreneurship principles to future business start-ups. Students have also come from China.

25 local entrepreneurs and business owners are serving as guest speakers sharing their real world experiences and complementing the curriculum and textbook, "Young Entrepreneurs Guide to Starting a Business."

*A 2011 Gallup survey revealed that 85% of America's teenagers indicated that they wish they had more business education in high school; 75% indicated they wanted to learn how to start their own business. "This is the need we responded to. People say, "It's never too late," we say "It's never too early" to introduce teenagers to entrepreneurship principles," Dr. Kurt Krueger, Concordia President.*

"Our goal is to introduce entrepreneurial skills at an early age and nurture an entrepreneurial drive and values that would set students on the right path for success in achieving their career and life goals," said Stephen Christensen, Concordia's executive vice president, external relations and entrepreneurship business instructor; also Founder - Teen Entrepreneur Academy.

**Preparing Teens for Opportunities and Changing Job Market**

As a result of declining jobs for teens ages 16-19 and the increase in start-up companies/small businesses, which account for most of today's job creation, the TEA was founded to foster creativity, knowledge, independence, integrity and entrepreneurial ventures among high school students. It also encourages students to complete high school and attend college.

Academy attendees are spending six days living and working on the Concordia campus and going on field trips to companies. The Academy concludes with a business plan competition (\$1,000 prize) to the best business plan. Curriculum covers identifying problems, seeing needs, creating opportunities, developing the business idea, sales, marketing, competition, and financing.

**Backed By OC's Premiere Business Thought Leaders**

The Academy is made possible from sponsorships from UPS, *Entrepreneur Magazine*, Definiti Healthcare Management, Orange County Business Council, Irvine Chamber of Commerce, OC METRO, U.S. Small Business Administration, Wright, Ford, Young & Company, Faith and Work Life and the Concordia University Center for Faith & Business. For more information, please call 714-272-7865 or visit <http://www.cui.edu/yea>

- The Academy partnerships with Century High School, Santa Ana High, Nicholas Academic Centers, NOVA Academy/Olive Crest Foster Homes, Delhi Center, Human Options
- Visit the campus, interview students or founder Stephen Christensen, guest speakers