



## INNOVATION WORKS TEACHES TEENS TO BE ENTREPRENEURS AND 'MAKERS' IN GREENE COUNTY'S STARTABLE PROGRAM

Startable Greene County is sponsored by Chevron Appalachia, EQT Foundation, Equitrans Midstream Corp, and the Grable Foundation

June 26, 2019 – PITTSBURGH and WAYNESBURG -- Innovation Works, the region's tech economic development organization, is holding the first sessions for up to ten Greene County teens to teach entrepreneurship and 'maker' skills in a six-week summer program called Startable. The Startable program is made possible by the corporate support of Chevron Appalachia, EQT, Equitrans, and the Grable Foundation and sessions will be held at Waynesburg University. Teens will design, prototype, build, brand, market, and sell their hardware products. The program will culminate in a community event on Wednesday, August 14, 2019 and will feature live product demonstrations, video presentations, crowdfunding campaign displays, a pitch competition, and award ceremony. Students will compete to win prize money in the pitch competition. The Startable application for student participation is still open. If students are interested in participating, apply online ([startablepgh.org/apply](http://startablepgh.org/apply)).

Startable Greene County will focus on innovative technology tracks. Students will work in teams with mentors to help them with business structure and project management while subject-matter experts will help students engineer and commercialize a product in agricultural technology, additive manufacturing, internet of things, e-textiles or arts-tech. According to Staci Offutt, Startable's Program Associate, "The program engages teens with technology, business, engineering, and startup experience which prepares them for future personal and professional growth – whether that's owning their own business or gaining other transferable skills learned through entrepreneurship."

Startable Greene County will work with students between the ages of 13 and 19 utilizing a variation of curriculum developed by Innovation Works (IW) and will provide classes, workshops, mentors, and guest speakers to engage the students. Waynesburg University is a critical component of the program's success, giving teens access to experts, mentors, and exposure to campus life.

"We're excited to have this level of collaboration from so many organizations to provide a wonderful opportunity to inspire young entrepreneurs in our area," said Waynesburg University President Douglas

G. Lee. "Since the launch of our Entrepreneurial Leadership and eHIVE programs, directed by Dr. Melinda Walls, we have created a number of initiatives with excellent learning experiences. This is the latest exciting endeavor, and I am deeply appreciative of those involved."

Waynesburg University recently launched the eHIVE, an Entrepreneurial Hub for Innovative Ventures and Endeavors, which is a co-curricular, innovative hub focused on the practice of entrepreneurial leadership through individual coaching, workshops, competitions and speakers. The University's Entrepreneurial Leadership Program focuses on the study and practice of entrepreneurial leadership in the academic setting through a cross-campus minor and selected courses.

Through the Startable Greene County Program, students will create a prototype using additive manufacturing processes, 3D modeling and engineering. They will also develop their products' packaging and marketing materials, learning to sell, present, network, and acquire funding for their



business concepts – all skills that are applicable in real world scenarios. The Startable program also helps students tap into IW's network of startups, community partners, and manufacturers, many of which provide internships.

Innovation Works is the Ben Franklin Technology Partner of Southwest Pennsylvania, a statewide network of four centers that provide resources for technology startups and innovative manufacturers to help them get established, grow and create and retain jobs. The service area of Innovation Works includes Greene County and eight other counties in the region.

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For students who might be interested in program participation:

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