



EntrepreneurShip Investigation

ESI Comes to Thayer County



A recent Nebraska survey finds that 65% of high school students would like to return to their home region after graduating from high school. However, to do so, students may need to learn how to create a successful business to be able to return to Thayer County after higher education.



Using ESI (EntrepreneurShip Investigation), 21 middle school and high school students from Bruning-Davenport, Deshler, Meridian and Thayer Central schools are researching careers and what it takes to create a successful business.



Once-a-month day-long workshop sessions will be held and students will travel to a central location to participate. Students will visit local businesses, participate in meetings with local organizations and hear motivational speakers to help them learn about business.



The first class was held on Friday, September 18th in Secret Library in Hebron. The students learned about what it takes to start a business. Students walked to Amanda's Cottage, True

Value Hardware and MVC Automotive to learn about the risks that those business owners took to start their business. They also learned how the businesses survive in the current economic circumstances.

Local teachers for the morning workshop were Arlis Hohl, Thayer County Economic Development Alliance Director; Deb Craig, Training Coordinator for Metal Quest Unlimited; and Phyllis Schoenholz, UN-L Extension Educator.

In addition to the ESI training, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension Specialist Diane Vigna and Special Projects Coordinator Nancy Eberle met with the

students to begin the first-ever "Community Connections" pilot to see who and what can help youth become successful while living in rural Nebraska. These UNL faculty will be training with the students at workshops or will be training students through computer and phone conferences. Adult mentors will be joining these workshops in October.

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