The BizFest Youth Entrepreneurship Competition is an innovative and intensive program that empowers youth with knowledge and insight into the world of business. This 3 day concentrated workshop teaches high school students how to turn hobbies into profitable business ventures, offers hands on practical training for aspiring entrepreneurs and reinforces a proactive attitude and encourages students to stay in school, go to college and become future business leaders of this country. Delivered by the University of Texas – Pan American (UTPA), BizFest is a signature program of the USHCC Foundation.

The BizFest curriculum focuses on two critical components – leadership development and entrepreneurship training. During the leadership development portion of the training, students must assess and evaluate their attitude, level of commitment, discipline and other personal traits in relation to achieving success in life and business. As students go through the academic component, they develop a viable business idea and business plan, which is then presented to a panel of judges. The 2015 Regional BizFest Competition will take place in the Washington, DC Metro Area. The deadline to apply is February 24, 2015.

Eligibility
- You must be enrolled in a high school located in the Washington, DC Metro Area.
- Must be a freshman, sophomore or junior in high school at the time of the program.
- Commitment to attend all three days of the training March 20-22nd, 2015.

Selection Criteria
- Clarity and quality of written statements
- Willingness to learn more and receive feedback
- Interest in entrepreneurship as shown in statements

The top three winners at the Regional competition win Google Chromebooks and are invited to participate in the National Competition at the USHCC Annual National Convention in September.

The top three winners at the National competition will receive a scholarship for college. The USHCC Foundation covers all costs associated with travel, meals and lodging.
- First Place: $5,000
- Second Place: $3,000
- Third Place: $1,000

Email Completed Form to cflorentino@ushcc.com

The applications will be submitted to a selection committee that will review them and you will be notified via phone or email if you are selected to participate in the program. Only students with completed applications will be considered.
BIZFEST YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP COMPETITION APPLICATION

I. Applicant Information

Applicant Name: _______________________________ Date: ________________

Address: ____________________________________________

                      (Street)       (Apt)

                      (City)       (State)       (Zip)

Home Telephone: (____) _______________ Cell Phone (if applicable): (____)_________________

Email Address: __________________________________________

Race and/or Ethnicity (for tracking purposes only) Check as many apply:

☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native

☐ Asian

☐ Black or African American

☐ Hispanic

☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

☐ White

☐ Unknown

Name of High School: _______________________________ State/County: __________________________

Student Level (select one): Freshman ___ Sophomore___ Junior___ Senior___

Date of Birth (mm/dd/yy):______________

Please rank the order of your interest in the following career study areas (1 being the highest and 6 being the lowest in preference.

  Marketing/Sales___ Mathematics___
  Engineering/Manufacturing___ Finance/Accounting___
  Information Technology___ Other (please specify)_________________

II. Parent/ Guardian & Family Information

Parent/Guardian Name: _______________________________ Relationship to you: ________________

Home address: __________________________________________

                      (Street)       (Apt #)

                      (City)       (State)       (Zip)

Home Telephone: (____) _______________ Work Telephone: (____)_________________
III. Short Answers (Please limit your response to 150 words)

Why are you interested in the USHCC Foundation BizFest program?

What does entrepreneurship mean to you? Why?
IV. Financial Need
National School Lunch Program (NSLP) (Free Lunch):

☐ I receive or qualify to receive free or reduced lunch

☐ I do not receive or qualify to receive free or reduced lunch

☐ I am not eligible to apply for the National School Lunch Program for the following reason:
______________________________________________________________________________

V. Additional Information

Do you have any food allergies or dietary restrictions? __________________________________________

If yes, please list them __________________________________________

Please list any health concerns: __________________________________________

Will you need special accommodations? __________________________________________

VI. Participant Expectations

| Participation in all program activities: During the training, selected participants are expected to attend all scheduled events. |
| Liability Waiver: Students under the age of 18 MUST submit a signed parental waiver. Please see waiver in Section VIII of this application. If a waiver is not attached to this application, please contact the USHCC Foundation for parental waiver at cflorentino@ushcc.com. |
| Media Release: Students MUST submit a signed media/ copyright release. Please see waiver in Section VII of this application. |
| Maintaining contact: Upon completion of the training, participants will be contacted in order to obtain information regarding the use of their educations and advice they may have for future participants. |

I, ____________________________, hereby certify that I fully understand the terms of the BizFest Youth Entrepreneurship Program and that the information provided in this application is truthful.

__________________________________________________________________________

Applicant Signature

\Date

I, ____________________________, hereby certify that I support ____________________________’s application for the Biz Fest Youth Entrepreneurship Program. I further certify that I understand the terms of the program and that the information in this application is truthful.

__________________________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date
VII. Photo, Interview, and Copyright Release Form for BizFest Participants

I hereby grant to the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Foundation, permission to interview me and use my biographical data and/or my likeness in a photograph or video in any and all of its publications and in any and all other media, including its website. I also grant the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Foundation the right to publish any of my writings that describe my experiences with the BizFest Youth Entrepreneurship Program. I grant the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Foundation these rights without any expectation of payment or other consideration. I understand and agree that these materials will become the property of the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Foundation and will not be returned. Irrevocably authorize the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Foundation to use any material described above for purposes of publicizing United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Foundation programs or for any other lawful purpose. In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy, wherein my likeness, biographical information, or written materials appear. I hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Foundation and its directors, officers, employees, benefactors, volunteers and agents from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other person acting on my behalf (or my estate’s behalf) may have by reason of this authorization.

Signature: __________________________________________ Date: __________________________

If the person signing is less than 18 years of age, there must be consent by a parent or guardian, as follows:
I certify that I am the parent or guardian of ___________________________________________________________, named above, and do hereby give my consent without reservation to the foregoing on behalf of this person.

Signature of parent/guardian: __________________________________________ Date: __________________________

VIII. Liability Waiver

The United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Foundation, in collaboration and/or through its affiliated Local Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and/or corresponding corporate sponsors, will provide sponsorship for the student’s breakfast and lunch, BizFest material and curriculum and BizFest business plan awards. It is required that each student, under the age of 18, selected to attend the BizFest must submit a parental waiver before the official opening of the BizFest.

Signature: __________________________________________ Date: __________________________

If the person signing is less than 18 years of age, there must be consent by a parent or guardian, as follows:
I certify that I am the parent or guardian of ___________________________________________________________, named above, and do hereby give my consent without reservation to the foregoing on behalf of this person.

Signature of parent/guardian: __________________________________________ Date: __________________________

Your signed permission serves as authorization and will also release the USHCC Foundation and its affiliates from any liability for the student during the above sponsored USHCC Foundation BizFest training program and event. Precautions will be taken to safeguard your student during the time at the USHCC Foundation BizFest. Please complete this permission form below and have your student return it to staff from the USHCC Foundation.
Letter of Excused Absence

To Whom It May Concern:

My child/dependent ____________________________ has been selected to participate in the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC) Foundation Youth Entrepreneurial BizFest Competition on ____________________________.

BizFest Youth Entrepreneurship Competition is an intensive three-day workshop that aims to equip high school students with tools necessary to launch their own business, establish entrepreneurial and leadership goals, create plans for business and life, become effective leaders and team players, identify investment opportunities, and make public presentations.

On the final day of the competition, students will present their business models to an audience of their peers, mentors, families, and greater community members. The top three presenters will qualify to participate at the BizFest National Competition in Washington, DC for scholarship funds.

I fully support my child/dependent in the BizFest program and thank you for your understanding.

I certify that I am the parent or guardian of ________________________________________, named above, and do hereby give my consent without reservation to the foregoing on behalf of this person.

Signature of parent/guardian: __________________________ Date: _________________________