

Camp helps local teen grow business

BY SPENSER BICKETT
Staff Writer

Teenagers usually spend their summer hanging out with friends, texting, Facebooking, Instagramming, Snapchatting, yolo-ing and keeping up with the Kardashians. But one local teen took time out of her summer to learn ways to grow her burgeoning business.

Laura Lucy of International Falls spent Aug. 6-8 at University of Minnesota-Duluth's Teen Enterprise program, a camp for regional teens looking to learn more about entrepreneurship. The camp, now in its second year, challenges teens to come up with a business plan for a start-up at the end of their three days in the program, said Sandi Larson, program organizer.

"We have a lot of different activities to get them to think about what a business looks like, how to research start-up costs, who else is doing something similar, who's your competition in the area, and can they afford to start it up," she said.

Lucy's company, Life's Little Joys Photography, allows her to practice her love of photography while also learning how to profit from it.



Laura Lucy

Lucy became hooked on photography at age 11, and started her business two years later as a 13-year-old. Now 15, she said she's gained enough experience to where the age gap between her and her clients isn't a hindrance.

"When people are a lot older, it's kind of hard for them to trust a 14 or a 15-year-old to shoot their wedding or their family pictures," she said. "But at the end they loosen up."

Balancing her love of the creative aspect of photography with the minutiae of the business side was becoming a struggle, Lucy said. The camp appealed to her because it gave her the opportunity to learn about

how to strike the right balance between the business and the photography.

Lucy said the knowledge she gained at the camp will help her grow her business, which has changed substantially since she started it two years ago. At first, she said she just started with a Facebook page, and took photos for friends and family, free of charge. As word got around, people started contacting her to see if she was available, and she became much busier.

"As I got busier and busier, I needed a way to start investing into better equipment, so I started charging," she said. Right now, all the profits from the business go towards new equipment.

The camp lets teens explore all the hurdles to starting a business through classroom time with instructors, as well as touring six different businesses, which lets students hear important lessons directly from business owners. Professionals shared how to get started and what real-world lessons they learned with

future entrepreneurs.

Lucy "had a leg up on" other attendees because of her personal business background, Larson said.

"She really got into it," Larson said. "She had more focus and experience, and when we toured the businesses, she had good questions for the owners. I could tell it was really beneficial for her."

The tour of TRITEC, a steel fabrication and engineering company in Virginia, resonated the most with Lucy. Learning about people who make their own product and how to stay on top of the competition clicked with her, she said. As a photographer, having the right equipment is key, and that's a question other businesses deal with as well.

"Having their own advantages and what makes theirs better than the others, and investing in equipment, and trying to determine if that's going to be profitable," she said.

Lucy attended the camp through a scholarship with Art Unlimited, an online

marketing company from Angora, Minn. Lucy was doing business portraits for them, which is how she learned about the scholarship, she said. The scholarship allows teens to connect with entrepreneurs and promote entrepreneurship, which is a goal of the company, project manager Anna Anderson said.

"We heard about the camp through the Entrepreneur Fund and the Business Association," Anderson said. "We came to them because we wanted to fuel entrepreneurship in young minds."

Art Unlimited sees the scholarship as a way to give back to the community, Anderson said. In northern Minnesota, students go to college and the often don't come back to the area. This camp lets students know they can grow their own business and thrive in the area without relocating.

Candidates for the scholarship had to submit a short essay and with not a lot of teens in business, Lucy was a clear choice for the scholarship, Anderson said.

"She didn't just have an idea, she had a business," she said. "Giving her the tools to grow it was exciting."

"We just wanted to provide a young person with knowledge and ideas to grow their business," she said. "Now she can take the knowledge and run with it."

Lucy wants to make sure she continues to grow her business, and that it doesn't end up as a flash in the pan. She said she wants to continue to get better equipment and work through high school, and from there, take photography and business courses in college.

"Eventually I do want to own my own studio, and maybe move to a bigger town, and I do want my photography to be a full-time job, my career," she said.

With the knowledge she said she gained through the Teen Enterprise program, as well as her budding business acumen, Lucy will continue to separate herself from her fellow teenagers.

State adds jobs in July

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Minnesota continues to recover from the recession of 2008, with the positive report of 4,300 added jobs in July, according to the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development.

The state has gained 71,500 jobs over the past year, for a growth rate of 2.6 percent. This outstrips the national growth rate of 1.7 percent, according to DEED. The seasonally ad-

justed unemployment rate for the state didn't change in July, holding at 5.2 percent, below the national rate of 7.4 percent.

"On an annual basis, the Minnesota labor market is recovering at a pace we haven't seen since the expansion of the 1990s," DEED Commissioner Katie Clark Sieben said. "We're edging closer to pre-recessionary employment levels."

Government led all sectors in added jobs in July, gaining 4,000 jobs. Logging

and mining held steady in July. Job losses occurred in education and health care, down 2,600 jobs, construction, down 1,700 jobs, and manufacturing, down 1,400 jobs.

Over the past year, of the state's eleven major industrial sectors, only manufacturing has lost jobs. All other sectors, like professional and business services, government, leisure and hospitality, and education and health services have added jobs.

Safety award given to RLMC employees

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Two Rainy Lake Medical Center employees were recently awarded "Good Catch for Patient Safety" awards by the Minnesota Hospital Association for efforts to keep patients safe by mentioning potential patient safety issues that may be overlooked.

Katie Chezick, PharmD, Director of Pharmacy, and Elizabeth (Betsy) Loop, RN, Chemotherapy

Nurse, were selected because their actions prevented a possible adverse event that had potential to directly affect patients had they not taken action.

The Chemotherapy Department had received orders for an infusion; as Chezick reviewed the orders she saw an issue in the order the medications were to be infused. After consulting the Duluth pharmacist about the protocol, they researched the information and found it

was wrong.

The Chemotherapy Department receives medication alert bulletins, and the staff reviews the bulletin to find medications RLMC uses. In the latest issue, there was a report about a "clot busting" medication and how it needs to be drawn up with a special filter needle. Loop showed the information to Chezick, who researched the product and found the article was right.

BUSINESS NEWS

Bemidji company holds open house

Anyone looking for work in the millwork field can attend an upcoming Business of the Day event 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Wednesday August 28 at the International Falls WorkForce Center.

Potlatch Corporation from Bemidji will be recruiting employees for maintenance millwright positions at their lumber manufacturing facility in

Bemidji during the event. Qualified candidates must be reliable, responsible, safety-conscious individuals who can work as part of a team. They must have a high school diploma or GED. Completion of an industrial mechanical technology training program with a vocational/technical degree is preferred. If not, three to five years of industrial work experience as a millwright, welder, and on hydraulic systems is preferred, preferably in a wood products mill.

Candidates must be comfortable working with computers and be familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel. Flexibility to work days, nights, and weekends on a rotating shift schedule is required.

Interested applicants can apply online at potlatchcorp.com, and follow instruction on the career page. Online applications will be the only type of application accepted.

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No Sharing Data with NSA

The paired hearing aids that are currently available share data between each of the instruments. Each manufacturer has a different way to use the data. Phonak has a wind noise reduction system that turns off the microphones on the windy side and transfers the sound from the non-windy side to the windy side ear. Unitron uses the input for the microphones on both sides to locate the direction of the speech and directs both instruments to listen in that direction. Widex coordinates their Zen tinnitus stimulus so that the ears get a synchronized sound. Truly amazing!

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