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## Powell County Students Make History with GSE Invitation

STANTON, Ky. – The Governor’s School for Entrepreneurs (GSE) recognized Julia Estes and Kennedy Nobles, the first-ever students from Powell County to be accepted into its *Summer Startup* program for high school entrepreneurs. To honor their achievement, Anne Jewell, President & CEO of GSE, visited Powell County High School on Wednesday to present a special recognition to Estes and Nobles.

“The Governor’s School for Entrepreneurs aims to serve all of Kentucky, so it’s a special thrill when students from counties we’ve never had before accept the transformational challenge of our Summer Startup program,” says Jewell. “Julia and Kennedy are trailblazers for Powell County, which helps GSE reach the entire region with this incredible opportunity.”

This milestone spotlights GSE’s ongoing efforts to reach students in all 120 Kentucky counties, particularly in more rural and historically underserved areas including many Eastern Kentucky counties that have not yet had participants. Stories like those of Nobles and Estes have the potential to inspire future applicants across the Appalachian region and help bridge opportunity gaps through entrepreneurship education.

GSE’s Summer Startup is an immersive program which is free for Kentucky high school students. Participants live and learn on a Kentucky college campus for three weeks while building real businesses, pitching to investors, and collaborating with professional mentors. Designed to cultivate innovation, leadership, and problem-solving, the program empowers Kentucky’s next generation of changemakers. This year, the program will be hosted at the University of Kentucky. Since launching in 2013, GSE has impacted the lives and communities of more than 1,500 high school and college students. More than 110 businesses have been launched across the commonwealth by GSE alums and/or received funding to further their Kentucky enterprises.

### ***The Governor’s School for Entrepreneurs***

*The Governor’s School for Entrepreneurs (GSE) identifies, inspires, and empowers Kentucky’s future innovators. GSE’s Summer Startup program develops entrepreneurial skills in high school students and qualifies them for college scholarships. GSE’s Collegiate Pitch program is Kentucky’s largest intercollegiate pitch competition, offering thousands of dollars in prizes. Because of strong partnerships with entities like the Kentucky Education and Labor Cabinet and the Cabinet for Economic Development, along with private and public supporters, GSE programs are free for selected student entrepreneurs. For more information, visit [kentuckygse.com](http://kentuckygse.com).*

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