

This Florida convention gives kids ideas for their own companies

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Image 1. Delphine Nephtalie Dauphin, 10, shows her cupcakes in her home kitchen on Saturday, July 20, 2019. Dauphine has owned her own cupcake business, Joy's Yummy Cupcakes, for three years. She's catered parties and weddings and sells hundreds of cupcakes on weekends. Photo by: Al Diaz/Miami Herald/TNS

Delphine Dauphine is 10 years old. At age 4, she already wanted to start her own business. She begged her mother, who gave in when Delphine was 7 years old. Delphine started baking and selling cupcakes.

Taylor Moxey, age 13, just wanted new dolls when she was 7 years old. However, her parents made her buy her own toys. They wanted her to learn how to manage her money. So, she, too, started her cupcake business at age 7.

Delphine's business is called Joy's Yummy Cupcakes. She now sells 200 cupcakes on the weekends. She also makes cakes for birthday parties and weddings. Taylor's business was called Taylor the Chef. She has moved on to new things. Taylor speaks at conferences and meetings. She has also created a foundation, a kind of charitable group. The foundation builds libraries around the world.

Kids Learn How To Start A Business

The Youth Economic Development Conference, or YEDC, is a meeting for young people. Teens and college students go to workshops to learn about different jobs. The meeting is held in Miami, Florida. Events take place at the North Campus location of Miami Dade College, or MDC. Five hundred kids attended the North Campus meeting. They learned how to start their own businesses.



"It's never too early to learn," said Saliha Nelson. She started and runs the conference. She also helps run Urgent, Inc., a Miami-based group that encourages young people.

The two-day conference has been happening each year for the past six years. At the conference, attendees learn how to set up new businesses. Some also learn about jobs in the arts and entertainment fields. They also connect with local businesses and workers. Every year, attendees learn skills to help them manage their money. They get to hear about other jobs at fairs and see movies at film festivals.

YEDC started out as a two-day event at MDC's North Campus. The event brought in mostly young people from the Overtown, Liberty City and Little Haiti neighborhoods. Daniella Levine Cava works for the local government. She represents South Miami-Dade County. She helped organizers add a one-day conference at MDC's Homestead Campus.

At the 2019 conferences, attendees learned how to use LinkedIn. On LinkedIn, people connect and find jobs. Attendees also learned about Miami's tourist and theatrical fields. Other attendees learned about computer coding. North Campus' conference finished with a business pitch contest. Taylor was a judge. Attendees described their business ideas. They tried to get people to give them money to help start their businesses.

The winners were twins Sandra and Sarena Noel. They pitched a business called Noelle's Gardens. The service helps people plant and take care of gardens in their backyards. Jean Monestime, a Miami-Dade official, and the bank Dade Federal Credit Union liked the pitch.

Nelson explained that the conference is trying to help young people. The attendees get to meet people they could not get to meet on their own.

Age Shouldn't Stop You

Taylor's foundation has built libraries in Florida and the Bahamas. The Bahamas are islands near Miami. She plans to build more across Central and South America. Taylor does not want people to feel like their age is stopping them.

"If you really have a passion for something, go out and make it happen," she said. "Those who say they can and those who say they can't are both usually right."

Quiz

- 1 How does the information in the introduction [paragraphs 1-3] support a MAIN idea of the article?
- (A) It helps the reader understand the steps to take to establish a charitable foundation.
 - (B) It helps the reader understand what happened at past Youth Economic Development Conferences.
 - (C) It highlights two kids who came up with the idea for the Youth Economic Development Conference.
 - (D) It highlights two kids who started their own businesses at a young age.
- 2 A MAIN idea of the article is that the YEDC teaches young people about different jobs and skills.
- Which key detail supports this MAIN idea?
- (A) The Youth Economic Development Conference, or YEDC, is a meeting for young people.
 - (B) The meeting is held in Miami, Florida. Events take place at the North Campus location of Miami Dade College, or MDC.
 - (C) At the conference, attendees learn how to set up new businesses.
 - (D) The service helps people plant and take care of gardens in their backyards.
- 3 Which selection from the article helps the reader understand that Taylor Moxey gives back to the community?
- (A) Taylor Moxey, age 13, just wanted new dolls when she was 7 years old. However, her parents made her buy her own toys.
 - (B) Taylor's business was called Taylor the Chef. She has moved on to new things.
 - (C) North Campus' conference finished with a business pitch contest. Taylor was a judge.
 - (D) Taylor's foundation has built libraries in Florida and the Bahamas. The Bahamas are islands near Miami.
- 4 Which detail shows how the conference helps its attendees?
- (A) The two-day conference has been happening each year for the past six years.
 - (B) The service helps people plant and take care of gardens in their backyards.
 - (C) Nelson explained that the conference is trying to help young people.
 - (D) The attendees get to meet people they could not get to meet on their own.