

# Entrepreneurial CONNECTIONS

## SILENT PARTNERS FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

**Entrepreneurial Connections** is a six-month teen-mentoring educational program created by the NAWBO-San Antonio Foundation in 1999 to encourage young women to explore entrepreneurship as a means to financial independence and career satisfaction. NAWBO-San Antonio is a volunteer organization whose members give their passion, time, and money to support this program. As a collaborative effort between NAWBO-San Antonio members, school representatives and administrators, community leaders, university and corporate sponsors, Entrepreneurial Connections reaches hundreds of teen women in under-served high schools across San Antonio.

The mission of the program is to:

- Empower young women to reach for their dreams and design their own destiny
- Encourage education beyond high school as a means to achieving “life” dreams.
- Emphasize the importance of financial literacy in achieving financial security.
- Explore entrepreneurship as a means to financial independence and career satisfaction.
- Educate the skills necessary to make “the dream” possible.

The program gives students the opportunity to network with women business owners and begin exploring what it takes to start a business. NAWBO-San Antonio members, acting as School Champions, meet on the high school campus with participating students to mentor them on the “life” skills necessary to be successful. More than 125 teen high school women attend the all-day conference. The conference allows the students to interact with women business owners throughout the day, learn about team building, and bringing business ideas to market. This experiential conference focuses on developing strategies, learning business planning tools, and resources available for the students to start their own business. The students attend a Business Plan Training session that provides a “tool kit” on how to prepare a business plan. The program ends with a Business Plan Competition that enables the participating students to define their “dream” business by submitting a business plan. A panel of judges consisting of NAWBO-SA members and partners review all entries and selects 6 finalists. Winners of the Business Plan Competition receive a total of \$20,500 in scholarships to be used at an institution for higher education.

The funding for this program comes from our partners and local businesses who support the program through cash sponsorships and prizes, and from grants awarded to our 501(c)3 non-profit Foundation.

We ask you to consider becoming a \$200.00 Silent Partner. These funds will help the Foundation offset the cost of taking each girl through the program and helping them make their dreams of financial independence come true. All donations are tax deductible.