

**For Immediate Release**



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## **District 303 Launches Experiential Entrepreneurship Program for 2018-2019**

September 19, 2017 - St. Charles Community Unit School District 303 is launching a new entrepreneurship program geared to providing students with an authentic learning experience around entrepreneurship -- everything from conceiving, developing, and launching a startup business. The program will be implemented in the fall of 2018 at both St. Charles East and St. Charles North high schools, and is a collaboration with Unchartered Learning, an innovative not-for-profit that develops unique programs for business/entrepreneurship education for K-12 students.

*“We are thrilled to be bringing INCubatoredu to the St. Charles community. This is a unique opportunity for our school district to partner with community members to implement an authentic, hands-on entrepreneurship experience for our students and provide a unique start-up environment and exposure to seasoned business professionals.” -Dr. Melissa Byrne, Associate Director of Curriculum*

INCubatoredu is a popular high school entrepreneurship course where student teams create new product and service innovations. In the course, student teams compete to take business ideas from concept to successful funding in an incubator environment designed to replicate real entrepreneurship challenges. In the process, students are grounded in many of the critical skills vital for successful business building – including collaboration, adaptability, critical thinking, creativity, and problem solving.

““We are excited to have St. Charles Community Unit School District as part of the INCubatoredu community and we look forward to delivering an excellent experience for students,” said Margarita Geleske, Co-Executive Director of Uncharted Learning. “Our programs are taught by a team of teachers, real-business mentors, and outside coaches drawn from local communities who help students learn the ins/outs of launching and managing a start-up business,” she added.

*Uncharted Learning* programs are now available to more than 3,500 students in more than 85 schools across 15 states, including Illinois, Colorado, Pennsylvania, California, Florida, Texas, Georgia, Wisconsin, Wyoming and Ohio. Learn more at: [www.incubatoredu.org](http://www.incubatoredu.org).

St. Charles Community Unit School District 303 is currently seeking local businesses and community members to volunteer to work with the program and our student entrepreneurs. More information will become available in the coming months. Interested local businesses and community members may send an email to Dr. Melissa Byrne, Associate Director of Curriculum at [Melissa.Byrne@d303.org](mailto:Melissa.Byrne@d303.org).

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