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RYAN'S® NAMES CONNOR JOYCE AS FIRST JR. BOSS AT PREMIERE COMPETITION IN PRINCETON

Richland Middle School student wins \$1,000 for big business idea

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PRINCETON, WV- Connor Lucas Joyce, 12, of Richlands Middle School recently became a “boss,” after winning the first **Jr. Boss Competition** hosted by Ryan's®. Joyce invented a multi-functional cleaning tool- an idea that was inspired when he was helping his grandmother detail her car- that judges voted as the best business idea, and awarded him the grand prize of \$1,000 as seed money to support his concept. The Jr. Boss program was launched in West Virginia in celebration of the grand re-openings for the Princeton, Beckley and Bluefield Ryan's.

“I was incredibly impressed with each of these students, who had the courage to go on stage and showcase their business ideas before an audience,” said Anthony Wedo, CEO of Ovation® Brands (parent company to Ryan's). “Great ideas come from all ages, and Connor wowed us with his professionalism and presentation skills. The Jr. Boss program was developed to allow us to encourage young people to not only think about a great idea, but to act on it.”

Joyce was one of 14 contestants in the **Jr. Boss Competition** held at the Mercer County Fair. In addition to Joyce, judges selected four other finalists, who each received \$500 to support their business ideas. Contestants were required to submit a business plan that explained their idea or product, and then presented those ideas in front of a panel of judges including Vice President of the Mercer County Fair Keith Circle, morning anchor at WVNS-TV 59 News Jessica Schueler, County Commissioner Gene Buckner, and Trust Administrative Officer for First Community Bank Jeff Disibbio. All participants were also accepted into Anthony Wedo's Jr. Boss Entrepreneurship Academy. The academy provides each student with online workshops, resources and personal coaching sessions for one year.

“There is no product like mine in the market,” said Joyce. “My product has many applications, and I see it being a staple in everyone's cleaning supplies. It was an honor to present my idea at the Jr. Boss competition.”

Joyce plans to manufacture his product in the United States, and will be using his winnings to pay for a patent for his invention.

For more information about Ryan's, visit online at www.Ryans.com.

About Ovation® Brands

Ovation® Brands currently operates 334 restaurants in 35 states, comprised of 324 steak-buffet restaurants and 10 Tahoe Joe's Famous Steakhouse restaurants. The restaurants are principally operated under the Old Country Buffet®, HomeTown® Buffet and Ryan's® brands. Ovation employs over 17,000 team members and serves approximately 100 million customers annually. Corporate headquarters are based in Greer, SC with a Corporate Support Center located in Eagan, MN. For more information, visit www.OvationBrands.com.

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