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American Portfolios Financial Services Congratulates Three Long Island High Schools as Finalists in the 2014-15 Virtual Enterprises International (VEI) Business Plan Competition

HOLBROOK, N.Y. (Feb. 26, 2015) — [American Portfolios Financial Services, Inc. \(APFS\)](#) congratulates the following Long Island high schools for being finalists in the fifth annual [Long Island Virtual Enterprises International \(VEI\)](#) Business Plan Competition: first place - John F. Kennedy High School in Bellmore; second place - G.W. Hewlett High School; and third place – Westhampton Beach High School.

Hosted by American Portfolios, the competition, which took place on Wednesday, Feb. 25, had six VEI participating high schools—its student-run business team members, school faculty and administrators and volunteer judges from both business and academic (primary and secondary level) spheres—converge at APFS' corporate offices in Holbrook, N.Y., to support this important learning experience and opportunity for business leaders of the future.

VEI is a non-profit organization that offers in-school experiential learning programs for high school students to form entrepreneurial, start-up businesses within a live global simulated setting. APFS has been a fervent supporter of VEI's mission to foster future business leaders early in their academic careers. Since 2014, APFS has been involved in the judging and sponsorship of VEI's local student competitions, providing them with the backdrop of a true corporate experience.

The competition was comprised of seven student-run business teams from six schools—Connetquot, East Islip, G. W. Hewlett, John F. Kennedy, Patchogue-Medford and Westhampton Beach high schools—whose virtual companies became semi-finalists in a competition held this past January at Farmingdale College with 34 other Long Island VEI high school virtual businesses. Presentations from the seven virtual companies were again made during the final competition to a panel of judges comprised of American Portfolios staff and affiliated financial advisors, as well as faculty and staff from Long Island University Post and Farmingdale State College. All presentations were held and captured in APFS' in-house production facility, Studio 454, to provide students with playback coverage of their performances as a way to improve on their presentation skills for future VEI competitions.

Looking out into an audience of promising young business leaders during his welcome speech, APFS CEO Lon T. Dolber said, "It's been said that one of the characteristics of top achievers is that they are life-long learners always looking for new skills and ideas. If you are not learning, then you are not growing and not moving towards excellence. The fact that you are here tells me you have embraced the idea that excellence means asking more of yourself than others would."

Throughout the event, students were given a tour of the APFS home office, allowing them the opportunity to meet and network with the firm's senior management, financial advisors and staff members. Staging the competition at APFS' corporate offices created added value for the students to associate how their virtual business management and operating procedural plans might apply in a real business environment. VEI Executive Director Iris Blanc, who was present for the event, commented, "The feedback the students get from industry professionals at APFS is invaluable, as it helps train the next generation of our workforce."



APFS affiliated advisor Andrew Corrigan served as one of the competition's judges. Of the event, he stated that he "was thoroughly impressed with the students' business plans and presentations, as well as the overall format of the competition." The top three groups from the championship round will advance to the National Business Plan Competition, which will be held as part of the [Youth Business Summit](#) events on April 13-15, 2015.

APFS will continue its support of VEI throughout the year with internship and mentoring opportunities at its corporate offices in Holbrook, as well as nationwide through its roughly 400 branch offices comprised of financial services business owners.

About American Portfolios

Headquartered in Holbrook, NY, APFS is a full-service independent broker/dealer and member firm of FINRA and SIPC, offering a complete range of financial services, including personal financial and retirement planning, securities trading, mutual funds, access to investment research, long-term care planning, insurance products and tax-free investing. Fee-based asset management is offered through its sister subsidiary, American Portfolios Advisors, Inc., (APA), an SEC registered investment adviser. Both entities, along with technology division American Outsources, LLC (AO) collectively reside under the legal entity, American Portfolios Holdings, Inc. Full-service securities brokerage is available through a clearing firm relationship with Pershing, LLC, a BNY Mellon firm, the securities of which are held on a fully disclosed basis. The company currently serves 826 independent investment professionals located in 393 branch locations throughout the nation.

About Virtual Enterprises

VEI is a non-profit organization that provides experiential learning programs to schools across Long Island and beyond. Through their live global business simulation, students are offered a competitive edge through project-based collaborative learning that allows them to create and operate every facet of a virtual business. This program helps students develop 21st-century skills in entrepreneurship, global business, problem solving, communications, personal finance and technology.

VEI Judges

Andrew Corrigan, Financial Advisor, APFS; Carrie Cottingham, Director, Center for Entrepreneurship and Legal Counsel, Long Island University Post; Richard Cross, CEO, Right Financial Advisor, LLC; Dr. Francine Federman, Assistant Dean, College-High School Programs, Farmingdale State College; Carl Kirchner, Director of Sales Operations, APFS; Edward Morrison, EVP, Chief Strategy Officer, APFS; Ryan Attard Reilly, Director of Alumni Relations, Long Island University Post.

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