KEARNEY — More than 140 high school students experienced the hard work and excitement of becoming an entrepreneur at the New Venture Adventure Thursday at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

“It’s a true entrepreneurial experience for students,” said Shawn Kaskie, director of the Center for Rural Research and Development and adviser of the UNK Enactus Team that organized the event.

In its eighth year, New Venture Adventure helps high school and university students develop leadership and business skills. UNK students coach high school students to develop business proposals that are presented to area business leaders at the end of the daylong event.

Teams of students created a retail, service or manufacturing business and crafted a mission statement and business card for that new company.

Teams also identified financing requirements of the new venture and met with local finance professionals to obtain the funding needed. Students then worked with mock realtors to negotiate a lease for their operations.

The student groups presented their overall business concepts to a panel of judges comprised of area business professionals and UNK staff.

Participating Hub Territory schools were Pleasanton, Shelton, Callaway, Amherst, Kearney Catholic, Loomis, Kearney, Litchfield and Sumner-Eddyville-Miller.

Team Charged Up was recognized as grand champion. Hub Territory team members were Mackenzie Clausen and Jacob Martenson, Amherst; Calli Hunter, Pleasanton; Christa Lovitt, Kearney; Abby Plihal, Shelton; Chantz Klein, Sumner-Eddyville-Miller; and Lindsey Siegel, Litchfield.

Teams Think Inside the Box and Lakeside Spa and Resort were named league winners.

Think inside the Box members from Hub Territory were Tanner Hircock, Amherst; Carlie Smith, Litchfield; Brienna James, S-E-M; Taylor Gard, Shelton; Shannon Skinner, Kearney; Maddie Paitz and Emily Day, Pleasanton; and Lane Gascoigne, Callaway.
Lakeside Spa and Resort members were Andrea Hanson, Callaway; Addy Hand and Gabbie Day, Pleasanton; Cassidy Starostka, KCHS; Eric Pavlicek, KHS; Liz Ptacnik, Litchfield; and Jessica Eckhout, Amherst.