2016 Annual Report

TURNING "I CAN'T" INTO "I CAN" AND DREAMS INTO PLANS

Photo: Volunteer Gregory Cotton, Founder, Cotton 7 Global Enterprises, with Gates Chili High School Students

Why JA?





LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

The end of 2016 marked my tenth year with Junior Achievement. Without doubt, I can say I am working side-by-side with the most dedicated staff, volunteers, board advisors and donors our community has to offer. With a team like this, it's hard not to be proud of where we have come over the past decade.

We have grown our territory from 6 counties to 25, now managing over 40% of New York State. While our programs reach 5,000 more students, the amount of mentor time with students has increased by over 50%.

To ensure relevancy, we have dramatically changed the way we utilize technology in our programs and have more student-based events, opportunities for networking, and scholarships than ever before. We have also created a Board Restricted Fund to ensure the perpetuity of JA programs and to provide seed funding for innovative and strategic JA projects.

Despite this success, I am often asked, "Why JA?" – which indicates we still have a lot of work to do. More education, business, and community partnerships are required to improve outcomes for youth.

We know that no one organization alone can have an impact on important issues such as poverty, the workforce skills gap, college and career readiness or graduation rates. We are fortunate to operate in communities that embrace "collective impact," and JA is well positioned to do our part, utilizing scientifically proven methods, national best practices, and defined measurements for success.

In the pages that follow, you will see some of 2016's highlights and "why JA" has such an impact on our education system.

I thank you for your role in our success over the past decade and for joining us as we fulfill our bold vision for the future – one where youth are financially capable citizens, with knowledge and skills for the workplace, and with the confidence and entrepreneurial mindset to pursue whatever it is they want to achieve.

Patnicia Leva

Patricia Leva, President & CEO

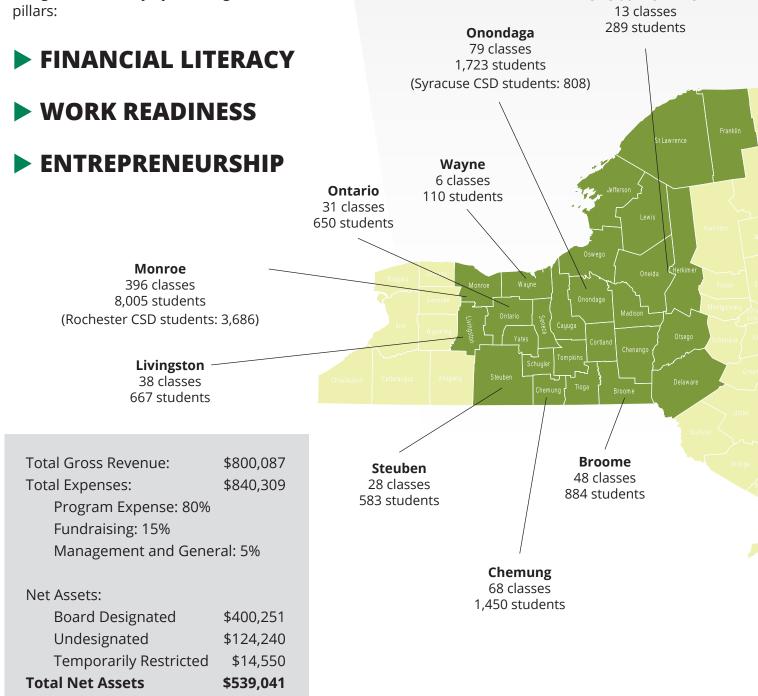
JA'S PILLARS OF SUCCESS

Junior Achievement inspires and prepares young people in grades K-12 to succeed in a global economy by focusing on three pillars:

JA BY THE NUMBERS

Total Classes: 707 Total Students: 14,361 Total Contact Hours: 112,325 Volunteers: 650

Oneida/Herkimer



Junior Achievement of Central Upstate New York Annual Report 2016

Why JA?

SOCIAL MOBILITY, ESCAPING POVERTY

JA programs help foster a sense of selfefficacy (or "I can") and purpose in young people which can result in beneficial behaviors that lead to future success.

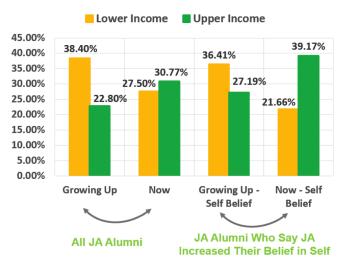
JA volunteer role models provide students with positive realizations and reinforcement of career aspirations, as well as the importance of education in getting a job and money management, and exposure to the benefits of business ownership. Providing these skills and inspiration can help overcome negative competing environmental factors such as peer pressure, lack of family support, and generational poverty. These factors are measured by JA in terms of knowledge gained and attitudes toward particular behaviors.

8 out of 10 JA students believe JA reinforced the importance of staying in school, a key factor in future earning power.

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY

JA programs provide a solid foundation for students to become financially capable adults, starting at a young age with needs and wants and graduating to increasingly complex topics such as profit and loss, lifestyle versus salary, credit card debt, student loan debt, and much more.

90% of JA alumni are confident in their ability to manage their finances.



JA Alumni Research: Describe Your Financial Situation



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

JA programs help students notice unmet needs in their communities and inspire them to fill these needs through business ownership. JA's volunteers help students understand their personal capacity for and interest in entrepreneurialism.

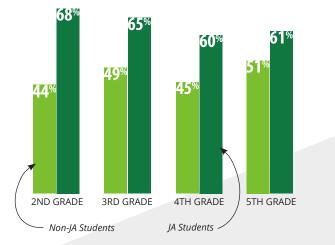
- ▶ 55% of JA alumni learned how a business works through JA
- ► JA alumni are 2 1/2 times more likely to be involved with starting a business than the general public

WORK READINESS AND SKILLS GAP

JA programs and role models introduce young people to professions and career paths they may not have otherwise been aware of.

Proven to heighten a student's understanding of the role education plays in their future success, participation in JA provides 21st century skills "practice", including critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication.

Percentage of Students Demonstrating Average or Above Average Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills



WHAT THE GRADES OF JA TAUGHT ME







BECAUSE HELPING KIDS CONNECT WHAT THEY LEARN IN SCHOOL TO THE REAL WORLD IS WHAT WE DO

JA YOU'RE HIRED! is a student/business networking event based on the JA Career Success[™] program. After participating in seven classroom-based lessons focused on the skills required to earn and keep a job, more than 125 students joined over 75 business mentors on March 15, 2016 at Onondaga Community College for a day-long immersion into high growth industries in the Syracuse region, including skill building, networking, and teamwork challenges.

Presented by:







"Subject Matter Experts": Delta Airlines (Branding), Excellus BCBS (Networking), Bank of New York Mellon (Financial Capability), Bryant & Stratton (Social Media)

Keynote Address: Kevin Schwab, Vice President External Affairs & Air Service Development, Center State CEO

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 14, 2017

JA BE ENTREPRENEURIAL® CHALLENGE

Utilizing the seven lessons in JA's Be Entrepreneurial[®] program, the team at The Hartford in New Hartford, NY hosted 35 students from Frankfort-Schuyler High School on November 8th. Students were introduced to the tenants of entrepreneurship, analyzed market trends, evaluated successful companies, practiced ethics through case studies, and ultimately pitched individual business plans to a panel of The Hartford judges.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Presented by: 📥 DELTA

JA TITAN® OF BUSINESS is more than just an on-line business game, it's a "game-changer". Students practice running a technology company in a real-time, competitive environment, and learn how to apply principles such as supply and demand, profit and loss, branding, return on investment, and community reinvestment, to both their work and personal lives.

After multiple lessons with a volunteer in the classroom and having qualified amidst a field of 400, 100 students arrived at St. John Fisher College on May 17, 2016 for a day of competition, team building and inspiration.

"JA Titan actually shows us how we will use Economics after we graduate."

- Laura from Gates Chili HS

FISHER

Young Entrepreneuer Sponsor: State Farm

Lead Scholarship Sponsor: Donald F. and Maxine B. Davison Foundation

Event Sponsors: Hammer Packaging, JPMorgan Chase, and O'Connell Electric

Inspiration provided by: Mark Davitt, President, ConServe (Keynote Address) and Mike Bonner (Young Entrepreneur Address)

Underwritten by: **RB**

Qualifying High Schools: Gates Chili, Livonia, PTech, Rochester Early College, Webster Schroeder, Webster Thomas, Wheatland Chili, World of Inquiry, York

SAVE THE DATE: MAY 16, 2017

JA COMPANY PROGRAM®

JA's redeveloped Company Program[®], delivered through a state-of-the art technology platform and utilizing the most relevant 21st century entrepreneurial tools, unlocks the innate ability in students to fill a need or solve a problem in their community by launching a real business venture. Designed to be a half or full year program, students from around our region gather together, conduct market research, choose a product or service, pick jobs based on their skills and interests, and run their companies under the mentorship of business partners.

Business Partners:





Special thanks to other partners of student/ business collaborations:

AT&T/ACC Business (Aspire) RIT (Communication Careers Day) Rochester Area Business Ethics Foundation (JA Ethics Day) Roberts Wesleyan ("Entrepreneurs for a Change" – Social Entrepreneurship Day)

TURNINGPOINTS 2



BECAUSE TOMORROW'S LEADERS NEED ROLE **MODELS TODAY**

FEI ANNUAL GOLF OUTING BENEFITING JA



Special thanks to Financial Executives International – Rochester Chapter for partnering with JA. FEI members throughout our region bring JA's much needed financial literacy lessons into the classroom while also organizing and managing a golf tournament to raise funding to offset these program costs.



GOLD SPONSORS

Annese & Associates ESL Federal Credit Union First Niagara Bank Freed Maxick PwC Terry Tree Service

SAVE THE DATE: JULY 25, 2017 **RAVENWOOD GOLF CLUB**

BOWL-A-THON

One of JA's oldest, cost-effective and FUN events for companies, families, or simply "girls night out", the Bowla-thon is sure to deliver comradery and competition for a great cause! More than 500 individuals hit the alleys this past Spring in Rochester, Syracuse and the Southern Tier to raise money for IA programs.

SPONSORED BY:

Carries Bankof America A DELTA VIOPS BNY MELLON TRANSICOLD

Top 15 Bowl-a-thon fundraisers:

- 1. National Grid
- 8. DePuy Synthes
- 2. General Motors
- 3. Carrier
- 4. Bank of NY Mellon
- 5. Delta Air Lines
- 6. KPMG
- 7. Bank of America Merrill Lynch
- 9. JA CUNY Board of Directors
- 10. Ernst & Young
- 11. PwC
- 12. Durst Image Technology USA
- 13. Davie Kaplan
- 14. Northwestern Mutual Insurance
- 15. Innovative Solutions

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY **JA SCHOLARSHIP**

Congratulations to Nancy Wang from Johnson City High School, Binghamton, NY, who received a full tuition scholarship to Syracuse University for 2016-2020. The SU/ IA scholarship has been available for over three decades to a student that participated in a JA high school program and has demonstrated hard work and determination, workforce soft skills, financial capability, and can articulate their version of the American Dream. Applications are due to JA every year in early February.











2016 ROCHESTER BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

SPONSORED BY Bank of America

The Rochester Business Hall of Fame honors outstanding business leaders and entrepreneurs who have made extraordinary and innovative contributions to free enterprise and the quality of life in our region. Founded in 2001, proceeds from the Rochester Business Hall of Fame gala event support JA's mission to prepare the next generation to achieve their own American Dream.

Their incredible accomplishments are communicated in a special supplement of the *Rochester Business Journal* and through an interactive exhibit at the Rochester Museum and Science Center.

Special thanks to Martino Flynn for bringing the stories of our laureates to life.



SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 10, 2017

Top to bottom: Sergio Esteban, Chief Executive Officer, LaBella Associates; Salvatore LaBella, Founder, LaBella Associates; Roger B. Friedlander, Former Vice President, Spectrum Office Products, Retired - Vice President, Staples, Inc., and President, Staples Business Advantage; William B. Konar, Founder, Clinton Merchandising, Founder, Konar Properties; Amy L. Tait, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Broadstone Real Estate, LLC



BECAUSE FINANCIALLY CAPABLE YOUTH BECOME PRODUCTIVE AND ENGAGED MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES

Thank you, donois!

\$15,000 and Above

Bank of America Delta Air Lines, Inc. ESL Charitable Foundation First Niagara Bank Foundation Glover-Crask Charitable Trust State Farm Insurance Syracuse City School District United Technologies/ Carrier

\$10,000 - \$14,999

Anderson Foundation Donald & Maxine Davison Foundation Joel & Katy DiMarco GW Lisk Hammer Packaging Pam Mellon National Grid Helen & Ritter Shumway Foundation Xerox Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Amherst Community Foundation Bank of New York Mellon Ralph & Eleanor Cantisano Foundation Century Mold Conserve Corning Foundation Davenport-Hatch Foundation

Excellus BlueCross BlueShield Fred & Floy Wilmott Foundation Gates Chili School District General Motors Foundation Greater Binghamton Education Outreach Partnership GV BOCES JP Morgan Chase Leverich Family Memorial Liverpool School District M&T Bank MetLife Foundation National Grid Navient Foundation O'Connell Electric Parlec Pavchex Geoffrey & Janet Rosenberger Spencerport CSD Sutherland Global Services

\$1,000 - \$4,999

AT&T/ACC Business Alesco Advisors Anderson Evans Foundation B&L Wholesale Supply Dan Book Allen & Joyce Boucher Jim & Susanne Bourdeau James Brennan David & Susan Brooks John & Barbara Bruning Brown & Brown Insurance Centra Financial Group Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc. Constellation Brands COMIDA **Corning Enterprises** Corning Inc. Davie Kaplan Mark Davitt **DeCarolis Truck Rental Beverly Demma** DePuy/Synthes Richard DiMarco leffrey & Robin Donlon Richard & Nancy Dorschel E.G. Sackett Co., Inc. East Rochester UFSD **Elmira Structures ESL Federal Credit Union** Joan Feinbloom Financial Executives International FindMyNews First Niagara Risk Management Mark Foerster GLC Business Services Genesee Regional Bank Bonnie and loe Gionta Todd Green HM Life Insurance HSBC Jared & Megan Haims Harris Beach The Hartford Insero & Co. IP com **ITX** Corporation Karpus Investments KeyBank Kraft Foods Stan Konopko LeChase Construction Patrick & Patricia Leva Lily Pond Ventures, LLC **MVP** Healthcare

Ken Metz

Monroe Community College Merzbach Law Office Monroe County Planning and Development North American Breweries Michael Nuccitelli Onondaga School District The Pike Company Pittsford Federal Credit Union RG&E **Rochester Business** Alliance Rochester Institute of Technology Rochester Regional Health Ronald McDonald House Charities **Ronald Ricotta** Sage Rutty Savoia Pastry Shoppe Seneca Foods Seton Catholic School Stephen & Debbie Sloan St. Louis St. John Fisher College School of Business Tom Tiernan Matt Tipple Tompkins Bank of Castile University of Rochester Vulcraft **Richard Warshof** Wegmans Welliver McGuire Woods Oviatt Gilman, LLP Claude G. & Geraldine A. Wright Family Fund Wright Beverage Distributing

\$500 - \$999

Admar Supply Company, Inc. Alex & Ani Alstom Signaling Foundation

Iohn Baker Fred Beer Blue Water Capital Management Alexander & Scott Cannan Cameron Manufacturing **Cobbles Elementary** Crazy Dog T-shirts DeFelice Development Dolomite Empower Credit Union Ernst & Young Gail Fiorini Five Star Bank Flower City Glass Pat George and Jennifer Vossler Lori Hollenbeck Home Leasing Corp. Innovative Solutions Johnson Brothers Lumber Jackie Klos Landsman Development Corporation Duncan Moore Lou Mosher Nacca & Capizzi LLP Todd Oldham **Pixos Print** Popli Engineering Postler & Jaeckle Pressware Stan & April Purdie Push Your Data **Rochester Midland** Corporation Rotary Club of Dewitt Sage Rutty & Co., Inc. Anthony Smith Spoleta Construction SRC, Inc. Dr. Kal Srinivas St. Kateri St. Lawrence **UR** Ventures Women's Club of Pittsford This list represents those who have given back to the community by donating precious financial resources from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. (Includes individual Bowl-a-thon donations at \$75 and above.)

\$499 and Under 3's Company

Rick Adam Edward & Elizabeth Adams Patricia Adams **Rohit Agrawal** Karen Ällen Alliance Data Elizabeth Allison **Bill Anderson Daniel Anderson** Sandra and Mario Aquino Dylan Ashley lim Avers Nina Babu **Billy Backus** lune Baker John Baley Maureen Ballatori **Raymond Barber** Francis Behlmer **Bethany Village** Bishops Brook Inc. Bivona Child Advocacy Center Carly Bosco Andrew Brady Robert & Donna Brennan Bryant & Stratton College Vicki Brouwer Todd Buzzard Cabot Group Cameron Manufacturing Cameron Youth Ministries Pat Capella Charles Cardona Joel Castellini Vincent Castoro Scott Catlin Andrea Childs Choice Refreshments losh Church Jeffrey Clark Erin and Jack Clarkson Michael Congdon lohn Cook. Ir. **Robert Currie** Kristine Dale Paul Davis Elmer Davis Reding Evan Del Colle Karen DeJarnette Paul Dhreher Mendal Dick **Kimberly DiFrancesco** Maxine and Carl Dobe Larry Draves Katelyn Dyer Eaton Todd Eaton and Margaret Burt Eclinical Patrick Edgar David Elsbree Christopher Fenlon Mark Fife Flaum Management Brett Forbes Frontier Abstract Jason Garceau Jennifer Garigen Chris Garitee

Raymond Giamartino Annmarie Giaso Charles Gifford Kim Gilberti Jeffrey Gleason Michael Gorevski Jeffrey Green Jen Grimsley Bill and Jill Hammond Raymond Hardy Harley School Tony Harris Brian Hart Robert Hawkes Cody Hewitt H.P. Neun Co., Inc. I.B.E.W Local 139 Erin Hiller Immediate Mailing Services Patrick Jarvis Jeffrey Jones Tricia Jean Jones Michael Kanaley Lawrence Kane David Katz Lisa Kerns Dennis Kessler Katie Kugler Lapp Insulator Lawley Insurance Tony Lanzafame Patrick Leitgeb Marissa Lewis Littler Employment & Labor Law Solutions Esther Liu Elaine Lyons Frank Maggio, Esq. Richard & John Markus David Marshall Richard and Catherine Massie Matrix Imaging Mark and Mary Ellen McArdle Dale McKim Mike Messenger Mickles Insurance Agency Mirion Technologies Monroe #1 BOCES Michael Monteleone Frank Notaro Jay Nelson Lynn Neubauer Niteopark, LLC Ronald Norris NuLook Collision lim O'Brien Nancy O'Brien Rachel and Kenneth Ossman **Dustin Pakusch** Neil Parry Ovation Payroll Matthew and Laurel Parrilli Bryan Patterson Dorothy Pecoraro Charles Pezzino Laurie Poltynski Lisa Pignato Practice Resources Eric Puccia

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"...he never had the confidence to even apply to college until this JA experience. For that, we are so grateful."

- Mother of a student in the Rochester City School District

In-Kind

B.J. Wholesale Club Bad Apples Bistro Black & Blue Bristol Mountain Bryant & Stratton College Cameron Manufacturing Century Wine Cheese Cake Factory Cheesy Dreams Chili's **Constellation Brands** Corning Museum of Glass Culligan Water Delmonico's Italian Steak House Delta Air Lines Delta Sonic Dinosaur Bar-B-Que Distillery Dog Town F. Oliver's Flaherty's Glenora Winery Good Luck Hedonist Artisan Chocolates Hilliard Corporation Holiday Inn Riverview Lakewood Vinevards Little Theater Lowes Martino Flynn, LLC Memorial Art Gallery Mighty Taco Monroe Community College

Next Door Bar & Grill Park Ave. Salon and Day Spa Pellegrino's Deli Café Pepsi Bottling Pomodoro Prejean Winery Radisson-Corning Randy Schuster-Turning Points2 **RIT Inn Conference Center** Roberts Wesleyan College Rochester Americans Hockey Club Rochester Business Journal Rochester Institute of Technology Rochester Museum & Science Center **Roseland Park** RPO Seabreeze Seneca Park Zoo St. John Fisher College Swain Resort Syracuse Univeristy Target Texas Roadhouse The Rabbit Room Thruway Court of Tallahassee TLC Limo Tops Friendly Markets Toshiba Business Solutions Walmart Woodcliff, Elan and Horizons WROC-TV8



BECAUSE ENRICHED LEARNING DOESN'T ALWAYS INVOLVE A FIELD TRIP

Our dedicated volunteers

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TOP 15 VOLUNTEER COMPANIES

- 1. PwC
- 2. Wegmans
- 3. Gates Chili High School Heros
- 4. Rochester Institute of Technology
- 5. Xerox
- 6. The Hartford
- 7. Manning & Napier Advisors
- 8. Bank of America
- 9. St. John Fisher College
- 10. Vulcraft of New York
- 11. Rochester Americans
- 12. KPMG
- 13. Bank of NY Mellon
- 14. University of Rochester, Simon **Business School**
- 15. New York Life **Insurance** Company



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Richard Jenkins

Kayla Maniscello Lou Anne Mann Nicolina Mantisi William Marilley Michele Marinaro **Desmond Marlon** Suliany Marrero Francine Martella Brandi Martin **Bradley Martina** Rocky Martinez Cheryl Matt Mark Matt LisaMarie Matthys Anne Mattice Michelle Mattick David Mazzini Carolina Mazzocchi Mary Ellen McArdle Timothy McCauley Mary McClary Lydia McEvoy Thomas McGrath Rachel McLane Alisha McLaughlin Katrina McMyne Brian McNaney Kevin McPherson Kate Meisenzahl Derek Meixell Pam Mellon Megan Merrell Stephen Merz Jeffrey Meteyer Andrew Methvin Kenneth Metz Kristin Metzger Kimberly Miller Pamela Miller Iordan Millner John Mills James Mineo Jessica Misencik Julie Monahan Donna Moore Doug Moore Eliza Moore Ryan Moore Neftali Morales Maria Moreno Bonita Morgan Peter Morgante Jon Morisey Seekia Morrison Arlene Moseley Joseph Mulhair Deanna Nance Courtney Nicholas David Nitsch Marie Norkett Jenae Norris Ronald Norris Briana Noto Rhonda Noto Thomas Novak Nancy O'Brien Katie O'Donnell Mary O'Malley-Trumble Marissa O'Neal Timothy O'Neal Amanze Oparaeke Andrea Ortiz Michael O'Sullivan Kameko Overs

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Timothy Salata Christopher Sands Tyler Sankes Armando Santiago Ashu Sanyal Cara Sapienza Jessica Sarkis John Sassani Ed Schmidt Brian Schmidt Nicole Schneider Russell Schneider James Schreiber Diane Schremmer Michelle Schubert Chester Schultz Jason Schwingle Rashad Scott Lyndsay Serpe Christopher Sheaffer Tari Sheridan William Sheron Mekenzie Shorey Kristin Short Deborah Simonson Amanda Simpson Samantha Singhal Samantha Slade **Brian Smiley** David Smith Sade Smith Bryana Snyder Bianca So **Dale Spencer** George Spencer Kat Springate Kal Srinivas Jill Staats Nicholas Staiano Victoria Steele Jennifer Steier Howard Stern Mark Stevens Amy Stewart Theresa Stewart Rebecca Stockslader Michael Stoner Mackenzie Stratton Ariel Stroud Tamera Strzepek Aishwarya Subramaniam Lynn Sullivan Kristin Sunheimer Stephen Swift Mary Sze-Tu Sonia Tal Christopher Tarantino Tara Tascione Allison Taylor Brandon Teti Pamela Thomas Amanda Thompson Thomas Tiernan Robert Tobin Laura Tomeny Brenda Tompkins Jake Torcello Christina Trabold Marissa Traver

Samantha Tribotte Maggie Triolo Kenyetta Tripp Chad Tubbs Susan Turner Kayla Turnipseed Daniel Tydings Christopher Tytler Evan Tzimas Matthew Ulterino Allen Vaala Upasana Vaghela Cathy Vail Laurie Valentino Morgan Vanderhoof Christopher Vavrina Kendra Vavrina Robin Vavrina Amanda Viavattine Karandeep Virk Steve Vonderweidt Yvonne Vonderweidt Theresa Wagner Kenneth Walcyk Stacey Walker Moging Wang Jason Ward Michael Wardle Steven Weber Serena Weckel-Purtell Karen Wedge Landry John Weinmann Andrea Weir Stephen Weir Scott Weissmann Kara Welch Stephen Wershing Leketa Wesley Lisa Wheeler **Bob Whipple** Joshua White Marissa White Kenneth Wida Jr. Trevor Wiggins Linda Wilkins **Brian Williams** Eric Williams Robin Williamson Amy Winans Brian Winchell Karyn Winters Paul Wisotzke David Wolf John Wolfe Patricia Wollan Shannon Wood Andrew Woodard James Wright Qing Wu Mark Wyand Nan Yang Emily Young Ying Zhang Micheal Zimmer Spiro Ziogas Brad Zoller Zacharv Zuckerman



BECAUSE WE'RE BUILDING A BOLD VISION FOR OUR REGION

ESSENCE, A 10TH GRADER FROM BALTIMORE, MARYLAND WAS PARTICIPATING IN A PANEL DISCUSSION OF PRESIDENT OBAMA'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON FINANCIAL CAPABILITY FOR YOUTH. WHEN ASKED HOW SHE COULD BEST BE PREPARED FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND MANAGING HER FINANCES, SHE CALLED FORTH A MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE WHEN SHE WAS 10 YEARS OLD – JA BIZ TOWN[®].



The Donald O. Schnuck JA BizTown[®] in St. Louis, Missouri, where each day, approximately 100 fifth or sixth graders become "citizens", working in one of 17 businesses, making financial decisions, paying taxes, and even donating to charity.

With one in seven young people between ages 16-24 nationwide neither working nor in school, JA programs provide a scalable solution to ensure that all youth have opportunities for a brighter future.

This is the hope for the youth of our Region, and it includes bringing two scientifically-proven JA programs, JA Biz Town[®] and JA Finance Park[®], to Monroe County, in a state-of-theart learning laboratory.



What is JA Biz Town[®] and JA Finance Park[®]?

Both programs have 13 in-classroom lessons followed by a one-day visit to a JA "learning laboratory" where students become citizens in a simulated economy.

In JA Biz Town[®], students in 4th to 6th grade, with the help of community volunteers, take on the jobs that are available in our economy; running businesses, making products, borrowing money, managing a bank account, making personal buying decisions, and electing a mayor.

In JA Finance Park[®], youth in 7th to 12th grade leave behind their lives as students and take on a new life in the mini-city, with a career, credit score, debt, family, and financial obligations. Students use tablets and receive guidance from volunteer role models to make financial decisions that support the lives they envision.

What have we done?

Given the JA Finance Park[®] program is available in three formats -- physical site (bricks & mortar), mobile site (expandable city delivered to host sites), and virtually (city is an online experience) – JA of Central Upstate New York had the opportunity to offer the virtual version as part of its Feasibility Phase.

Funded by the Max and Marian Farash Charitable Foundation and the ESL Foundation and other businesses as "storefront" sponsors, at the end of 2015, more than 1,500 students in 13 different school districts were utilizing the program. Knowledge gain was statistically significant and student attitudes and behaviors were positively impacted.

What's next?

Positioning JA at the center of a regional initiative to reduce poverty, improve job awareness and readiness, and help inspire and spark the entrepreneurial spirit, JA of Central Upstate New York will be creating a place for a 15,000 square foot JA learning laboratory that will serve more than 12,000 youth annually.

A PROVEN MODEL IN MORE THAN 30 CITIES IN THE US

- A 2016 JA USA commissioned external evaluation study indicates that 41% of JA Biz Town[™] students' "future orientation" were positively changed (i.e., I will now set goals for my future/I will think more about my financial future).
- A JA of Oklahoma longitudinal study of 568 urban students reports that 90% identified JA Biz Town[®] as helping them realize the importance of staying in school.
- The University of Louisville's Department of Urban and Public Affairs reports that Jefferson County Math scores of the 4th to 5th grade cohort increased 5.8% and College and Career Readiness Scores increased 6.76% with the district-wide implementation of JA Biz Town[®]. In addition, 79% of the middle schools reported increased attendance on simulation day.



A HUB of Community Engagement: The JA Discovery Center in Atlanta is a national model for the flagship facility JA is working to bring to our region.



Winner of the Junior Achievement USA[®] Five Star Award, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 Junior Achievement of Central Upstate New York, Inc. 1 S. Washington Street, Suite 110 Rochester, NY 14614



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