

JA Banks in Action North American Champions Crowned

Christopher Borders, Edward Balaguer and Burns Healy, students from Anderson High School in Austin, Texas, were crowned the champions of the second annual *JA Banks in Action*™ North American Competition. The event was held in New York from June 30-July 1 by the Citi Foundation and JA Worldwide®. *Team Anderson Bank* bested sixteen other regional semi-finalists from Delaware, Arizona, Nevada, Kentucky, Texas and Canada for the North American title.

The second-place team also hailed from Anderson High School in Austin and was comprised of Jae Lee, Daniel Jones and Jessica Tsing. Rounding out the top three was a team from Mandarin High School in Jacksonville, Florida, comprised of Ryan Cannady, Wesley Durrance and Ne'Frisco Nash.

Geared to high school students, *JA Banks in Action* demystifies finance by explaining how a bank works.

While exposing students to banking basics, operations, and history, students learn about various career paths they can take in the financial services industry. A computer simulation allows student competitors to role-play in high-level positions such as CEO and CFO, challenging them to successfully operate a bank in a dynamic environment where their decisions will make or break "their" bank. The students face off in an exhilarating game of financial know-how and skill, where good money management instincts are the key to survival.

Francesco Vanni d'Archirafi, Global Head of Treasury and Trade Solutions at Citi and a member of Citi's Institutional Clients Group Management Committee; and Jack Kosakowski, Executive Vice President and COO for JA Worldwide, presented prizes to the winners during an awards luncheon emceed by Tyler Mathisen of CNBC's *On the Money*.



Christopher Borders, Edward Balaguer and Burns Healy, students from Anderson High School in Austin, Texas, accept first prize from JA Worldwide and Citi at the North American Banks in Action Championship.

Junior Achievement Names 2008 Teacher of the Year

Trudy D. Hines of Lincoln Public Schools' Entrepreneurship Focus Program in Lincoln, Nebraska, has been named the 2008 Junior Achievement Teacher of the Year. The award recognizes teachers who have demonstrated excellence, effectiveness and innovation in their support of Junior Achievement programs which teach work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy skills to 8.3 million youth around the world annually.

The award is made possible through a grant from The Little Family Foundation, and is open to teachers worldwide. Nominations were received from Junior Achievement operations in 19 countries; selection of the award winner is made by an external panel comprised of stakeholders from each of Junior Achievement's six global regions. Hines has used Junior Achievement programs in her classroom for 22 years and was nominated by Junior Achievement of Lincoln.



Junior Achievement's 2008 Teacher of the Year Trudy D. Hines from Lincoln, Nebraska, addresses attendees at JA's Worldwide Leadership Conference.

Oracle Invests \$1 Million in JA Titan

JA Worldwide has received a \$1 million Oracle Commitment Grant in support of *JA Titan*™, a web-based business competition for teens. The gift will support expansion of *JA Titan* beyond the United States and Canada to 10 additional countries around the world. JA operations in Israel, Poland, Romania, Spain, and South Africa will be the first to translate *JA Titan*.

JA Titan is an innovative online high school-level program that helps students act as virtual CEOs, exercising critical economic and management decisions using an interactive web-based simulation of

companies competing in an imaginary global marketplace. *JA Titan* gives participants firsthand

experience managing the challenges that come with operating a successful global enterprise.



Leave a Rich Legacy

Have you ever considered naming Junior Achievement as a beneficiary in your will? A planned gift is one of the greatest ways to ensure a strong and mission-filled future for Junior Achievement. In most cases JA Worldwide learns of a planned gift only after a long-time supporter passes away, and we miss having the opportunity to thank them. If you have made provisions for JA Worldwide® or any Junior Achievement local operation in your will, we encourage you to let us know so that we have the opportunity to thank you and ensure your intentions are fully realized. For more information on planned giving opportunities, please contact Debra Stinton Othitis, Vice President, Development, at 719.540.6191.

Futures Fall 2008

For editorial information or to subscribe to the online edition of *Futures*, please e-mail futures@ja.org.
 Editor: Stephanie Bell
 Designer: Jody Conditt

JA Members Recognized for Innovation, Win MetLife Foundation Entrepreneurial Awards

JA Worldwide (Junior Achievement) announced that eight JA operations, six in the United States and two international, have won the 2008 MetLife Foundation Entrepreneurial Award. The awards were announced July 16 at the JA Worldwide Leadership Conference.

Presented annually since 2001, the award recognizes Junior Achievement operations that demonstrate entrepreneurial spirit and innovation in achieving sustainable results for their primary stakeholders – students, schools, volunteers, and donors. Each winner receives a cash award of \$25,000 to continue and expand their work, and JA Worldwide shares best practices throughout the organization. The eight award-winning offices and their winning initiatives are listed below.

2008 MetLife Foundation Entrepreneurial Award winners:

- Junior Achievement of Central Florida, Civic Engagement Partnership
- Junior Achievement of Eastern Massachusetts, JA Connect
- Junior Achievement of Eastern Oklahoma, SOS—Skills of Success
- Junior Achievement of North Florida, JA Girl\$
- Junior Achievement of Romania, Be a Leader Program
- Junior Achievement of South Dakota, Distance Learning and Participation Initiative
- Junior Achievement of West Central Florida, JA Diploma-see
- Pretasi Junior Indonesia, Economics for Life



Futures

JA Unveils Two New Programs at Worldwide Leadership Conference

JA Worldwide unveiled two new programs at its recent Worldwide Leadership Conference. One was a re-imagining of a perennial favorite, the other a brand-new addition to JA's program mix.

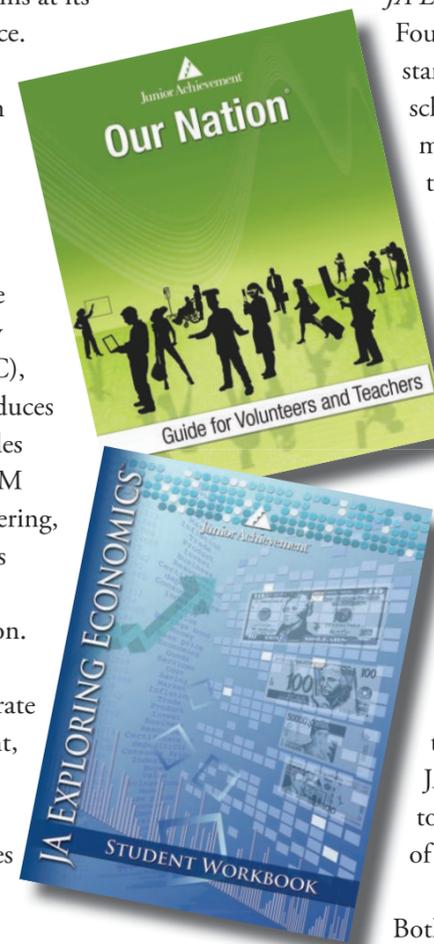
Our Nation® was initially unveiled in 1993 and is used each year by 561,000 elementary grades students globally. The newly revised *Our Nation*, sponsored by United Technologies Corporation (UTC), teaches workforce readiness skills, introduces the concept of globalization, and provides students with a focus on careers in STEM industries: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. *Our Nation's* activities use hands-on learning to illustrate the interdependence fostered by globalization.

UTC's Andrea Doane, Director, Corporate Citizenship and Community Investment, says, "STEM is particularly important because the quality of life that we enjoy today is dependent on it—for economies to continue to grow, these are the skills that will be needed." According to the U.S. Department of Labor's *2008-09 Occupational Outlook Handbook*, 15 of the 20 fastest-growing jobs, projected by percentage of growth, are STEM-related.

JA Exploring Economics, sponsored by MetLife Foundation, was created to be used as a stand-alone, seven-session program for high school students, or to be used as companion material for the existing *JA Economics* textbook. *JA Exploring Economics* makes complex economic concepts accessible and relevant by using engaging, experiential activities. Students learn about supply and demand, risk and reward, and the effect of government actions on the economy. The lessons let students actively participate in the program, which they find more compelling than passively listening to a lecture.

April Hawkins, Director of the Civic Affair Programs for MetLife Foundation, notes, "One of the things that JA is expert in doing is helping young people make the link between what they learn from JA's financial literacy curricula, and what's to come in higher education and the world of work."

Both programs demonstrate JA's commitment to providing students with engaging and relevant content around its "three pillars": work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy.



JA Worldwide®
Headquarters
One Education Way
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
www.ja.org

From the President's Desk



Sean C. Rush
President and Chief
Executive Officer

In my first few months of meeting with business leaders around the world on behalf of JA Worldwide, I'm hearing a disturbing message—and the volume is increasing. The business community is sounding the alarm for improved work readiness skills, such as leadership, problem-solving, teamwork, and a strong work ethic, among graduating high school students.

According to *McKinsey Quarterly* global surveys conducted in 2006 and 2007, finding talented people is likely to be the single most important managerial preoccupation for the rest of this decade. While the need is for first-rate skills on a worldwide basis, the United States faces a shockingly high drop-out rate of 32 percent—or nearly one-third of all high school students, according to a recent Gates Foundation study.

It appears there is a disconnect between the education system's goals, business's requirements, and young people's priorities. Students need to see the connection between school and getting a good job, between a strong work ethic and personal success. They need to believe they can be in charge of their futures.

This is *exactly* what Junior Achievement provides. In bringing relevant, real-world educational experiences to more than eight million youngsters around the globe annually, Junior Achievement programs—such as the recently released *Our Nation*® and *JA Exploring Economics*™—bridge the gap between school and the workplace by taking the best of contextual learning and the best of academic rigor, and applying lessons learned through various partnerships. The result is a solid foundation for developing a more competitive workforce that combines the hard skills of academic learning with the soft skills of workplace know-how and marries them with the initiative found in entrepreneurial endeavor.