

## For Immediate Release

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## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT VOLUNTEERS MEAN BUSINESS DURING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

*Princeton, NJ (Princeton Online)* – April 21-27 is [National Volunteer Week](#). During this week, business people throughout New Jersey will be recognized as they contribute their time and help students better understand the world of work as Junior Achievement volunteers.

The presence of influential mentors in the classroom, together with JA's instructional materials and techniques, form a powerful combination in teaching young students about economics. These efforts have helped participating New Jersey schools raise the bar in teaching important concepts in financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

How special for a young person to have a top executive from one of New Jersey's premier corporations visit their classroom and teach one of JA's activity-based lessons on financial literacy! This experience has a tremendous impact not only on the students but on our volunteer role models as well, as evidenced by the following comments from some of our JA-NJ board members:

### **HSBC – Pat Cozza: Group Executive of HSBC Insurance Services & Taxpayer Financial Services**

"As an organization committed to financial literacy, HSBC employees are keenly aware of the critical role early education plays in creating a generation of knowledgeable consumers. JA is one of the best ways to reach not only young people, but their families, as we know that the students go home and share what they have learned in class."

### **PSE&G – Don Tretola: Regional Public Affairs Manager**

"PSE&G is proud to partner with Junior Achievement on a number of educational initiatives. When we invest in our youth, we invest in the future!"

### **Verizon - Bill Foshay: Senior Vice President & General Manager**

"Our employees are committed to improving the quality of life in our communities; it's part of who we are as a business and as individuals. We're pleased to be able to partner with Junior Achievement in support of programs throughout New Jersey that will help educate future business leaders. In the classroom, I have personally witnessed the feeling of empowerment a child experiences when they realize the opportunities available to them in business – be it a sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation. This is a noble cause and is one of the ways Verizon makes a difference in our communities".

### **Computer Associates – Ronald Torre: Vice President, Technical Support**

"Giving back to the community is what it's all about. That's exactly what we've accomplished through our partnership with JA of NJ. Through our relationship with JA we're able to reach out to tomorrow's leaders by mentoring and instructing students to take advantage of what the world has to offer. Our experience in working with the children can be thought of as planting a seed and watching it grow into a tree".

### **Lucent Technologies – Glenn Coleman: Finance Vice President, Americas Controller**

"I was amazed at how much of an impact 6 hours in the classroom had on the kids, as well as on me. The program content and structure made it fun for the kids to learn and for me to teach. They were really excited about the program (2nd grade program) and looked forward to each classroom session we spent together. The end result was great participation by the kids, which resulted in them having a much better understanding about how a community works".

### **Lockheed Martin – Pamela Hansen Hargan: Vice President, Human Resources**

"Our responsibility is to continue developing inspired leaders to guide our businesses, communities, and world as technology and markets diversify and grow. Continuing the Lockheed Martin Junior Achievement partnership will enable us to reach beyond boundaries and enhance the free enterprise system".

**Lincoln Investment Planning, Inc. - John M. Natale: Regional Manager**

"As a child, one special person stepped up and made a difference in my life. By getting involved with JA you may be that one special person that makes a difference in the life of a child".

**HSBC - Kirk Bryans: Group Director, Sales**

"HSBC and JA continue to be strong partners sharing in the common goal to educate the youth of New Jersey on financial literacy. The classroom program is so much fun. I don't know who gets more out of it, the kids or our employees."

**Accenture - Bradford Gruby: Partner**

- " Great platform for employee engagement"
- " We're a professional services business built on the knowledge of our people -- it's a good fit in terms of us caring deeply about educational performance of students generally"
- " Our workforce travels a lot, so the fact JA offers a chance to get in the classroom with teams of other Accenture people really goes a long way toward connecting to one's home community".

As Catherine Milone-Richards, JA-NJ President, has said, *"Junior Achievement programs could not have the profound impact they have on young people without the support of volunteers from the business community."*

**About Junior Achievement**

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating young people about business, economics and free enterprise. Through a dedicated volunteer network, JA provides in-school and after-school programs for students in grades K-12. JA offers educational programs that focus on seven key content areas: business, citizenship, economics, entrepreneurship, ethics/character, financial literacy, and career development. Today more than 142 offices reach approximately four million students in the United States, with more than three million students served by operations in 96 countries worldwide. For more information, visit [www.ja.org](http://www.ja.org).