



Bijou Porchay: A Story of Dedication and Ambition

In an era where financial literacy and entrepreneurship are more important than ever, inspiring young leaders are emerging to show the way. One such leader is Bijou Porchay, the 2026 recipient of the prestigious Experian Youth Scholarship. Her remarkable achievement is not only a testament to her dedication and vision, but also a rallying call to Arkansas youth to get involved with Junior Achievement of Arkansas (JAARK).

"I participated in several Junior Achievement (JA) programs between 2015–2018 while attending the ABC Adolescent Center after-school and summer program. During that time, we learned many valuable life skills, especially financial literacy and entrepreneurship.

I remember several guest speakers visiting our camp through JA. One speaker who stood out to me was a representative from First Security Bank. She spoke to us about the importance of investing at an early age and explained how to make our money work for us instead of always working for money. Even though I was only nine years old at the time, I understood the importance of what she was teaching us, especially regarding saving, investing, and building good credit."

As a student deeply involved with JAARK, Bijou took full advantage of the organization's programs, which are designed to empower students with real-world skills in financial management, entrepreneurship, and career readiness. Through workshops, mentorship, and hands-on experiences, she honed her leadership and business acumen, setting herself apart as a standout among her peers.

Her achievement is more than just personal recognition—it highlights the transformative potential of youth programs like those offered by JAARK. Bijou's story demonstrates how commitment to learning and active participation in community initiatives can open doors to prestigious opportunities, scholarships, and lifelong skills.

An Inspiring JA Story: Terrance Wyrick Shines at the HOF Business Luncheon

At this year's Hall of Fame Business Luncheon in May, attendees were treated to a truly moving story from Terrance Wyrick, a shining example of the transformative power of Junior Achievement (JA). Terrance's journey, shared with warmth and candor, touched hearts and inspired action among business leaders and community members alike.

Terrance, a proud JA alumnus, recalled his early days as a student uncertain about his future. Like most of our youth, he often wondered what opportunities were available to him and how to start shaping his future. It was through Junior Achievement that Terrance first discovered his passion for teaching. Participating in JA programs, he learned foundational skills in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and teamwork—skills that would later become the bedrock of his success.

During his keynote, Terrance spoke openly about the mentors he met through JA who encouraged him not just to dream, but to act. He credited JA for helping him set ambitious goals, build confidence, and develop a strong work ethic.

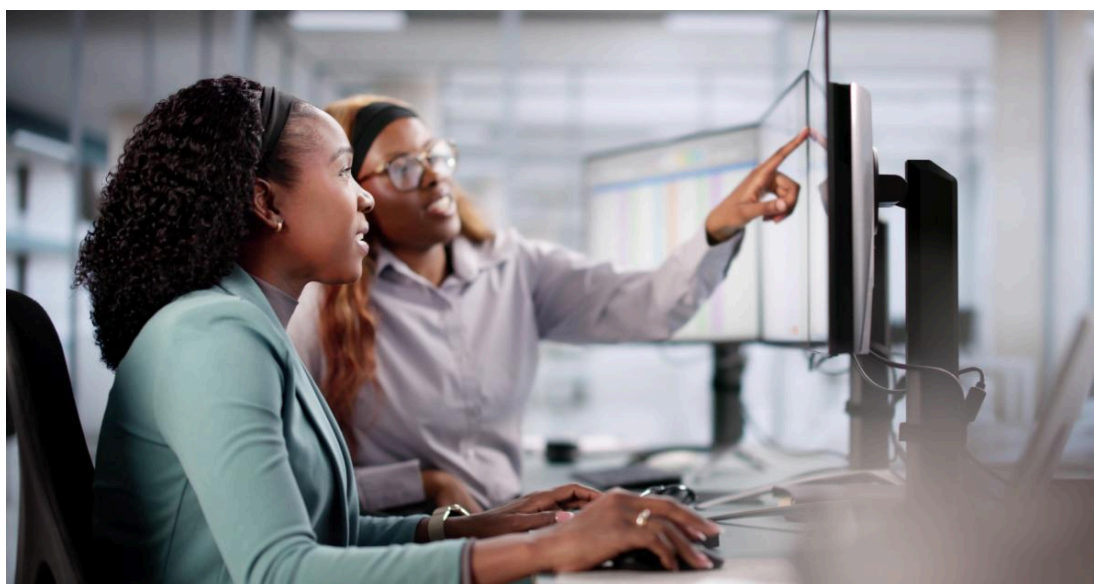
Terrance's story resonated with everyone in the room, reminding us of the critical role JA plays in shaping the next generation of leaders. His journey from a hopeful JA student to a successful business professional is a testament to the lasting impact of the organization's mission.



As the luncheon concluded, there was a renewed sense of purpose among attendees to support JA's efforts, ensuring more young people can experience the same life-changing opportunities that empowered Terrance.

His story is a beacon of hope, showing what's possible when we invest in our youth and their futures.

Thank you, Terrance, for sharing your journey and reminding us all of the power of inspiration and opportunity.



Why Arkansas Youth Should Recieve JA Programming

The above success stories serve as an inspiration for all Arkansas youth. In a rapidly changing world, the ability to understand finances, think entrepreneurially, and lead with confidence is critical. JAARK provides a platform for young people to learn these essential skills, build meaningful connections, and grow into the leaders of tomorrow. By getting involved with JAARK, students gain access to:

- **Financial literacy education** that prepares them for real-world challenges
- **Entrepreneurial training** that fosters creativity and problem-solving
- **Mentorship from business professionals** who guide and inspire

Bijou Porchay's journey proves that with determination and the right support, Arkansas youth can achieve extraordinary things. Her story should encourage other students to take the initiative, get involved with JAARK, and pursue their own paths to success.


A Call to Action

The future belongs to those who are willing to learn, lead, and dream big. Arkansas youth have a unique opportunity to shape their futures with the resources and support of JAARK. Bijou's legacy will continue to inspire others to step forward, get involved, and make a difference—not just for themselves, but for their communities.

Let these newsletter stories of achievement be a spark. Join JAARK, embrace the challenge, and become the next success story.



Save The Date

 Join us for Swing Fore JA at Top Golf in Rogers on Friday, September 18, 2026. Mark your calendars for a fun-filled day of golf, networking, and supporting Junior Achievement.

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