



NEWS RELEASE

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Junior Achievement of Arkansas Volunteer Receives Top National Honor

Arkansas business leader wins Junior Achievement's top volunteer leadership award for empowering students to own their economic success.

Little Rock, AR – Junior Achievement of Arkansas (JA) announced that John Eichler has been chosen from among more than one hundred thousand U.S. volunteers as one of eleven recipients of the organization's most prestigious national award for volunteerism, the Gold Leadership Award.

Junior Achievement's Gold Leadership Award honors volunteer excellence, presented in recognition of leadership in supporting and expanding JA's student impact, resources, operational excellence and sustainability. The Gold Leadership Award honors the recipient's JA volunteer service during the 2022-23 school year.

Our local business community's support of JA is critical to achieving our mission, to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in the global economy," said Tonya Villines, president and CEO of Junior Achievement of Arkansas. John Eichler, Senior Vice President, and Controller, at Windstream, is a remarkable example of that spirit of dedication and service to others. In a very tangible way, he helps Junior Achievement of Arkansas JA students get the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices."

John has been an integral part of Junior Achievement of Arkansas for over 15 years, serving in various leadership capacities, including his current role as Chairperson of the State Junior Achievement Board.

Throughout his tenure, John has exhibited an unwavering passion for our organization, its mission, and most importantly, the students we serve. His dedication and tireless efforts have been instrumental in propelling Junior Achievement of Arkansas to new heights. As a member of our Board of Directors for 15 years, John has been actively engaged in advancing our initiatives across the state.

Junior Achievement's entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and work readiness programs are delivered nationwide-typically in classrooms during the school day, by volunteer role models from the local business community.

About Junior Achievement USA® (JA)

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices. JA learning experiences are delivered by corporate and community volunteers and provide relevant, hands-on experiences that give students from kindergarten through high school knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship. Additionally, Junior Achievement is expanding its reach to 18-to-25-year-olds to provide young adults with critical life skills, as well as to pre-K youth to ensure children get a solid head start. Today, JA reaches more than 4.4 million students per year in 102 markets across the United States as part of 12.5 million students served by operations in more than 100 other countries worldwide. Junior Achievement USA is a member of JA Worldwide. For more information, visit www.ja.org.

About Junior Achievement of Arkansas

Junior Achievement of Arkansas is the state's only organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices. Corporate and community volunteers deliver JA programs, and provide relevant, hands-on experiences that give students from kindergarten through high school knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. Additionally, Junior Achievement is expanding its reach to 18-to-25-year-olds to provide young adults with critical life skills, as well as to pre-K youth to ensure children get a solid head start. Today, JA reaches over 22,000 students per year across Arkansas. For more information, visit www.arkansas.ja.org