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Junior Achievement of Arkansas Announces Inaugural Hall of Fame Gala *Jenny and Andrew Faulkner to co-chair new event on May 9 in Little Rock*

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (Feb. 7, 2024) — Junior Achievement of Arkansas has announced its inaugural Hall of Fame Gala, to be co-chaired by Jenny and Andrew Faulkner, CEO of Staley Technologies, the event’s presenting sponsor. The celebration will be Thursday, May 9, 2024, at the Statehouse Convention Center Governor Halls I and II in Little Rock.

The event will honor Doug McMillon, president and CEO of Walmart Inc.; Arvest Bank for the Nelson Summit Award; and Fatima Majid of Pulaski Academy as Student of the Year. The funds raised during the event will help pay for nearly 20 percent of the students JA will reach during the school year.

“This new event replaces the annual Legacy Award Business Luncheon as Junior Achievement’s largest fundraiser of the year for 2024,” said Andrew Faulkner. “We are proud to celebrate these honorees for their support of financial literacy, entrepreneurship and academic excellence in Arkansas.”

As a business owner in the technology industry, Andrew Faulkner understands the value of a strong educational foundation. He and his wife, Jenny, are dedicated to the work done by JA and humbled to serve as event co-chairs.

Gala honoree Doug McMillon serves as president and CEO of Walmart Inc. McMillon’s dedication to education makes him particularly deserving of this honor. Under his leadership, Walmart is heavily invested in skills-based training to connect people to more job opportunities, boosting wages and benefits — including the creation of a debt-free college program and an expanded parental leave policy.

Other honors given at the gala are the Student of the Year, awarded to Fatima Majid, a student at Pulaski Academy, and the Nelson Summit Award, which will be presented to Arvest Bank, honoring a company that shows a deep commitment to educating Arkansas’s youth.

Heather Baker, president and publisher of AY Media Group, and David Bazzel, radio personality on 103.7 The Buzz and former Razorback linebacker, and will emcee the event.

National Junior Achievement leadership who will be in attendance include Tim Greinert, executive vice president and chief operations officer, and Katie Keane, vice president operations.

Event sponsors include Staley Technologies, Walmart Inc., The McLarty Companies, FORVIS, First Horizon Bank, Arkansas Money & Politics, Windstream, Arkansas Blue Cross Blue Shield, McGriff, HoganTaylor CPAs & Advisors, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, Relyance Bank, Quattlebaum, Grooms & Tull PLLC, Arvest Bank, Baptist Health, MHP/Team SI and CFO Network .

The event reception will begin with dinner at 6 p.m., followed by the program at 7 p.m. For more information, contact Tonya Villines, president and CEO of JA, at tvillines@jaark.org.

ABOUT JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

At Junior Achievement, young people are given the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future and make smart academic and economic choices. Our corporate and community volunteers deliver relevant, hands-on experiences that give over 15,000 Arkansas students from kindergarten through high school education in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. Find out more at Arkansas.JA.org.

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