Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio

Newsletter

November 2025

Alumni Spotlight

*"From a JA Company Program student with just an idea to a recent college graduate **running my own business**, JA taught me how to **turn ideas into action**, **collaborate with others**, and take risks with **confidence**. Today, I'm continuing to grow my business and make an impact in my community. Every student deserves this chance — and **your support makes it possible** for the next generation of entrepreneurs to dream big and succeed."*

Brad Smith

JA Company Program Alum

National Entrepreneurship Month

Support the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

This November, in honor of **National Entrepreneurship Month**, we're proud to showcase the creativity and drive of JA students across our region! Through programs like the **JA Company Program**—one of our largest and most impactful entrepreneurship programs—students are turning ideas into real businesses while developing teamwork, financial skills, and confidence.

Take a sneak peek at some of this year's student companies:

- Blessed Box - **@blessedbox.ja**
- Bloom & Brush - **@bloomandbrush.ja**
- Brave Minds - **@bravemindsja**
- Heavy Hugs - **@heavyhugsja**
- Hints of Hope - **@hintsofhope.ja**
- Hygeia - **@hygeia.ja**
- Lift - **@liftband.ja**
- Loop'd - **@loopd_ja**
- Love Local - **@lovelocal.ja**

- Next Chapter - @nextchapterjacompany
- Off Beat Games - @offbeatgamesja
- Ohio Rubber Duck Dash - @ohiorubberduckdash
- Open Me When - @openmewhen.ja
- Retro Aurora - @retroaurora2025
- Scrap'd - @scrapd.ja
- Toastee - @toastee.ja
- Waste Wars - @wastewars.ja
- Wear Your Worth - @wearyourworth.ja
- WiFill - @wifill_ja

All JA programs are **completely free** for students and schools, thanks to generous supporters. With recent funding cuts, your support is more important than ever.

Your support empowers students to:

- Launch and grow their own businesses
- Develop real-world skills in entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy
- Gain mentorship and resources to succeed today and in the future

Invest in the next generation of leaders and innovators. Your year-end gift helps JA provide more students with life-changing experiences that turn ideas into reality.

DONATE TODAY!

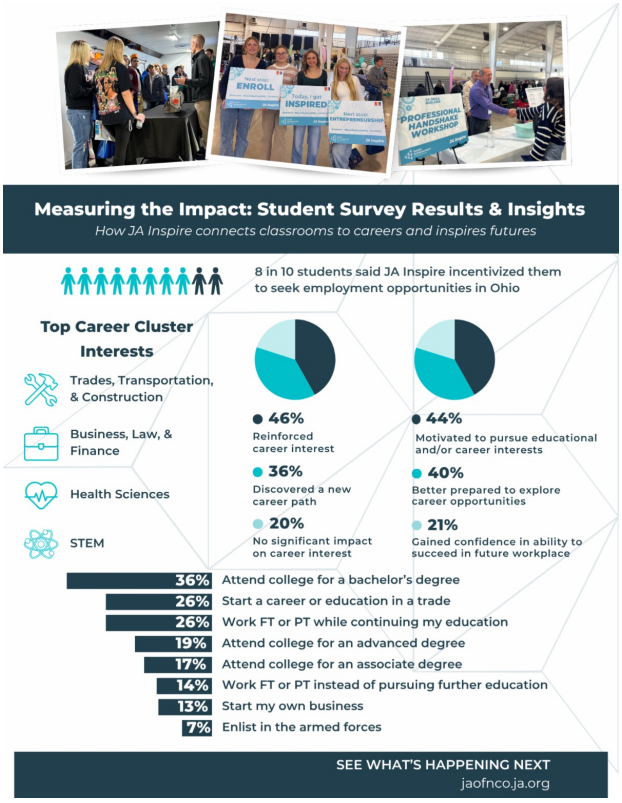
At JANCO, we believe every student deserves a future shaped by choice, not chance. Thanks to our incredible local partners, volunteers, and supporters, thousands of students across 16 counties gained real-world skills and the confidence to dream bigger.

Together, we're reimagining education right here in our community and expanding what's possible for students in Northern Ohio. Let's keep creating opportunity in 2026!

Make an even bigger impact: Thanks to recent tax-law changes, your year-end gift could go further, helping more students access life-changing experiences.
Learn More →

A Look Back at JA Inspire in Wayne County

Key stats and takeaways from a day of career exploration



Empowering Students Through Financial Literacy

Our semester-long **Financial Literacy program** is growing, giving students the tools to make confident financial decisions and plan for their future. **Aligned with Ohio's financial literacy standards,** the program meets the increasing demand for **real-world financial education** across our 16-county footprint.

Students Reached

2,723 SY 24-25 → **~4,250** SY 25-26

Schools Participating

26 SY 24-25 → **32** SY 25-26 with a few more in the works!

We're also proud to be part of **JA USA's High School Financial Literacy Course Advisory Group**. Two local teachers contributed feedback through interviews with JA USA to help shape the redesigned course, which will pilot this spring and officially launch in Fall 2026.

To learn more or bring Financial Literacy programming to your school, contact:

Brittney Wells, *Senior Director of Programs*
brittney.wells@ja.org | 330.433.0063 x107

Volunteer With Us

Seeking Volunteers at JA Inspire!

Join us for this exciting career exploration event, where students discover diverse industries and future careers. Volunteers guide students, assist with exhibits, and help the event run smoothly. It's a great way to inspire the next generation and make a lasting impact — we'd love to have you on board!

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER HERE!

Seeking Classroom Volunteers!

Step into the classroom to spark curiosity, guide learning, and inspire the next generation.

CLICK TO VIEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Don't miss your chance to *Inspire* the next generation!

Three chances left to engage with students, share your experience, and inspire careers.

Stark County
Hall of Fame Village - Center for Performance
Thursday, March 4, 2026

Interested? Contact us!
Businesses: Susan Koosh, Susan.Koosh@ja.org
Educators: Kristin Paumier, Kristin.Paumier@ja.org

Richland County
Richland County Fairgrounds - Fairhaven Hall
Thursday, February 19, 2026

Interested? Contact us!
Businesses: Jake Hayes, Jake.Hayes@ja.org or Bethany Rachel, Bethany.Rachel@ja.org

Educators: Bethany Rachel, Bethany.Rachel@ja.org

Ashland County
Ashland University - Niss Athletic Center
May 13, 2026

Interested? Contact us!
Businesses: Jake Hayes, Jake.Hayes@ja.org or
Bethany Rachel, Bethany.Rachel@ja.org
Educators: Bethany Rachel, Bethany.Rachel@ja.org

REGISTER FOR JA INSPIRE HERE!

Upcoming Events

Stark Tank High School Edition
Kent State University at Stark - Main Hall Auditorium
Wednesday, March 11, 2026 - Conceptual
Thursday, March 12, 2026 - Conceptual
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 - Established

Interested? Contact us!
Jenn Scheeser, Jenn.Scheeser@ja.org

JA Company - Entrepreneurship Expo
Walsh University - Barrette Center
Thursday, April 23, 2026

Interested? Contact us!
Jenn Scheeser, Jenn.Scheeser@ja.org

Annual Golf Classic
Shady Hollow County Club
Monday, May 18, 2026

Interested? Contact us!
Nina Alachniewicz, Nina.Alachniewicz@ja.org

Making Impact Possible

Together with our supporters, we're helping students grow into confident leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators.*

- AEP Foundation
- Akron Community Foundation
- ArcelorMittal Tubular Products LLC
- Arts in Stark
- Carroll County Foundation
- Centerra Co-op
- Charles E. and Mabel M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation
- Coshocton Foundation
- Daisy Brand
- East Central Ohio Building & Construction Trades Council
- Emerson Automation Solutions
- Erwin & Katherine Geis Charitable Foundation of The Cleveland Foundation
- Evelyn E. Walter Foundation
- FedEx
- Flagstar Bank
- The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
- Greater Cleveland Chapter & North Central Ohio Chapter, NECA
- Huntington National Bank
- Lloyd L. & Louise K. Smith Memorial Foundation
- Marco's Franchising LLC
- Marion Harding Athletic Boosters
- McLane Foodservice, Inc
- Medical Mutual
- Modern Woodmen of America
- Richard W. Niemiec
- North Central State College
- North Central Workforce Alliance
- Ohio Department of Education
- Orrvilon Inc.
- The Phillips Family Foundation
- The Portage Foundation
- PRC-Saltillo
- Ralph E. Boyd Foundation
- Schaeffler Transmission Systems LLC
- Jonathan Schneider
- Gary Schumacher
- SeibertKeck Insurance
- Sequoia Financial Group
- Shelby Foundation
- Stark County Manufacturing Workforce Development Partnership
- Stark Truss Company
- State of Ohio - Department of Commerce
- Taco Bell Foundation
- The George H Deuble Foundation
- The Ohio State University at Mansfield
- University of Mount Union
- Ventrac Venture Products, Inc.
- Welty Building Company LTD
- The Welty Family Foundation
- The Wooster Brush Company

*List reflects contributions of $1,000 or more received between July 1, 2025 and November 11, 2025.

DONATE TODAY!

REQUEST A PROGRAM | VOLUNTEER | SUPPORT JA | VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio | 4353 Executive Circle NW | Canton, OH 44718 US

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