



JACF Connections

June 2025

Karen's Corner

Dear Friends of Junior Achievement of Central Florida,

As summer begins and students take a well-earned break, many public-school leaders are using this time to reflect, reset, and reimagine how to best prepare students for an ever-changing future. At Junior Achievement of Central Florida (JACF), JA sees this season not as a slowdown, but as a launchpad for what's next.

Public education is facing mounting challenges—from shifting workforce demands to resource limitations—but JACF is proud to partner with our local school districts to deliver meaningful, real-world learning experiences that meet this moment with purpose and impact.

Through connectivity to the corporate world, JACF is helping students build the skills and confidence they need to succeed in school and beyond. **3DE by Junior Achievement** high school model brings business case challenges into classrooms, connecting students with local industries and helping them think critically, collaborate, and lead.

While students may be out of the classroom this summer, the work of preparing them for the future doesn't stop. With every partnership, every volunteer mentor, and every program delivered, JACF is helping to ensure that when the new school year begins, students are not only ready—they're inspired.

Thank you to our district partners, volunteers, and donors. Your commitment ensures that every summer sparks new potential—and every school year builds toward a brighter, more certain future.

With heartfelt appreciation,



Karen Revels
President & CEO
JA of Central Florida

To Donate

Teacher Appreciation

JACF is proud to celebrate the dedicated educators who help make our mission a reality in classrooms every day.

While JACF provides the tools, it's the educators who create the spark. They're the ones guiding students through their first business pitch, helping them discover their career interests, or showing them how to build a budget for the very first time.

We take immense pride in partnering with passionate and selfless individuals who help us bring the JA mission to life in the classroom. We are deeply grateful to incredible partners at **Orange County Public Schools, School District of Osceola County, Seminole County Public Schools, and Volusia County Schools.**

A BIG thank you to **3DE by Junior Achievement** Launch Teachers. From the moment students walk into their classroom, they're met with patience, purpose, and a passion for learning.

JA Around Town



Trina Gregory, the 2024 Junior Achievement of Central Florida Entrepreneurial Vanguard honoree and proprietor of Se7enBites, appeared on the Today Show's third hour, presenting the cast with her signature biscuits as part of a segment highlighting Orlando, thanks to Visit Orlando.



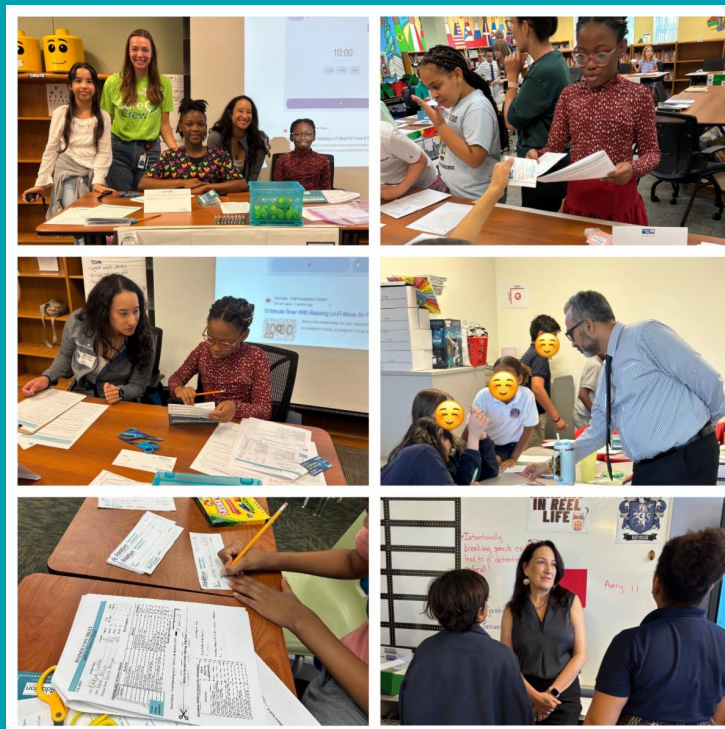
JACF loved hosting a Bowl-a-thon

THANK YOU
PARTNERS!

OC
PS Orange County
Public Schools



for EY! Thank you EY for bowling
with us and supporting our mission
to inspire and prepare the next
generation of leaders.



JA BizTown in a Box Presented by Addition Financial in Orange County

JACF can't think of a better way to end the school year than with a trip to BizTown for Orange County Public Schools Students.

These students were able to experience the fun of BizTown right in their classroom. Students took on roles as business owners, consumers, and active citizens—buying and selling goods and services while learning how a community functions.

Through this immersive program, they've developed essential skills in personal finance, business management, teamwork, and critical decision-making.

Thank you to the presenting sponsor, Addition Financial, and our partners, AdventHealth, The UPS Store, and Massey Services, for helping us create a meaningful and memorable experience for them.

JACF also can't forget the fantastic volunteers, Sky Kellogg, Charis, Kelly Shea, Arif Fareed, and Evonne Thompson, to name a few. Thank you for dedicating your time and talent to these students.

3DE by Junior Achievement Stole Ceremony

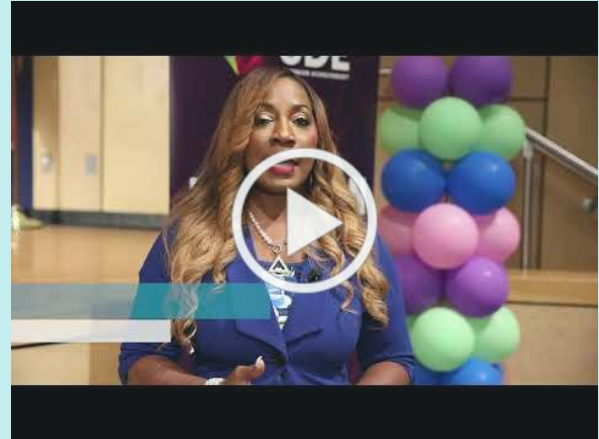


This year, there were 69 graduating **3DE by Junior Achievement** Seniors at Oak Ridge High School. It was a privilege to recognize them at the Stole Ceremony.

Special congratulations go to Fedline, John, Keilla, and Wideline, who were honored by the **Rotary Club of Orlando** for their academic excellence.

Thank you, **Rotary Club of Orlando**, for believing in JA students and for investing in their futures.

The future is boundless for these graduates, and JACF looks forward to seeing their accomplishments.



This year, there were 47 graduating **3DE by Junior Achievement** Seniors at Osceola High School. It was a privilege to recognize each of them and celebrate their hard work, growth, and achievements at the Stole Ceremony.

Words can't fully express how proud JACF is of this incredible group. JACF looks forward to seeing what they accomplish beyond high school- the future is bright.



JACF Leadership Council Summit

The JACF Leadership Council Summit was the perfect way to end the year for our Leadership Council.

With a thought-provoking panel discussion with JACF Board Members, Troy Sands, Nicole McMurray, and Gary Heath, and workshops with fellow LC Members, the morning was filled with inspiring and impactful moments.

Thank you, Troy, Nicole, and Gary, for taking the time to mentor and guide the JACF Leadership Council.

JACF is incredibly proud of the Leadership Council and grateful for the energy, commitment, and support they continue to bring to the JA mission.

Volunteer Spotlight: Sky Kellogg

Sky works with AdventHealth as a Program Coordinator for Nursing Professional Development. She has worked with AdventHealth for the last five years in various roles within Human Resources. Her background is in sales, recruitment, and marketing.

Sky assists in the management of the AdventHealth and Junior Achievement Partnership. She has been the lead in AdventHealth's role within 3DE initiatives, Inspire events, and the BizTown Pop-Up in Osceola County. Her mission is to deepen AdventHealth's presence within the community. She hopes students will have a greater understanding of all the career pathways they can pursue when considering a future in health care.

"It has been so fulfilling to support the work of Junior Achievement. Having the opportunity to impact students of all ages and backgrounds has been so impactful. The students inspire our team members and reinvigorate us all in the

work that we do. I am thrilled to continue to support this partnership and watch it grow in the years to come!"



JACF News

Congratulations! **Shannon DiFranco** has been promoted to Director of Education.

As the Director of Education, Shannon will lead the exceptional education team, driving our mission forward and ensuring that students across Central Florida are equipped with essential skills for success in both work and life.



Congratulations! **Laura May** has been promoted to Senior Partnership Engagement Manager.

Laura will lead the 3DE Partnership Engagement Team, with a focus on the 10th-grade and Senior Consultancy Projects. She will play a key role in stewarding JACF business partners and ensuring that the case challenges and consultancies give students the best possible experience.



Partner Spotlight: The Poinsette Foundation

What better way to celebrate the school year and the first year of **3DE by Junior Achievement** than with a Breakfast of Champions at Innovation and East River High School! This breakfast was a celebration honoring the students who reached a culminating event during the school year.

A BIG thank you to **The Poinsette Foundation** for their unwavering support of 3DE by Junior Achievement. Your commitment to inspiring and preparing the next generation is an example for everyone.



[Join JACF Today!](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 20: Hall of Fame

Your Company's Team Building Bowl-A-Thon
(Email us for more information)

February 3, 2026: JA Inspire Osceola

*must register in advance

Volunteer With
JACF!



Mercedes-Benz USA (MBUSA) is proud to announce the launch of its 2025 “Dream Days” campaign, highlighting its partnership with Junior Achievement to provide students with long-term outcomes in areas such as financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurial spirit.

Every 2025 Mercedes-Benz CLE Coupe sold helps send a student to a Junior Achievement program during the company's Dream Days campaign, running from May 1 to July 31, 2025.



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