



JACF Connections

April 2025

Karen's Corner

Dear Friends of Junior Achievement of Central Florida,

There's a palpable energy at Junior Achievement of Central Florida, and it's been incredible to see the enthusiasm shared by our team, partners, volunteers, and—most importantly—our students. March has been a busy and exciting month, and I'm thrilled to share some highlights with you.

JA Inspire Orange presented by STAPLES is just around the corner and we couldn't be more excited to welcome Orange County Public Schools students to this immersive career exploration experience. Designed to connect students with real-world opportunities, JA Inspire empowers them to make informed decisions about their futures while strengthening our local workforce. We are deeply grateful to our sponsors and partners who made this impactful event possible - Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to sharing more about the event in our next update.

We were also proud to celebrate one of our own this month. Tim Myers was honored with the Junior Achievement USA Gold Leadership Award at the JA USA Volunteer Summit in New York City. Among just 11 recipients nationwide, Tim was recognized for his outstanding dedication to both JA and our community. It was a privilege to speak about Tim's unwavering commitment to Central Florida and the next generation of leaders.

Meanwhile, our 3DE by Junior Achievement Schools are thriving this spring. From Market Expos to Senior Consultancy and National Case Challenges, our students are rising to the occasion- and then some. We have two upcoming 3DE Guest Tours, and I encourage you to join us to see this innovative model in action. If you're unable to attend, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're always happy to schedule a time to connect and share more about how your company can get involved.

Together, we can ensure every student in Central Florida is equipped with the tools, knowledge, and experiences they need to succeed. If you'd like to get involved, please visit jacentralfi.org or email us at info@jacentralfi.org.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

With appreciation,



K. Revels

Karen Revels
President & CEO
JA of Central Florida

To Donate

Gold Leadership Award Recipient: Tim Myers

During the Volunteer Summit in New York City, we celebrated 11 Gold Leadership Award Recipients, including Tim Myers from Junior Achievement of Central Florida.

It was a truly special and heartfelt evening dedicated to recognizing the unwavering commitment of each of these remarkable honorees to Junior Achievement USA.

Tim is a long-time champion of educational innovation and operational excellence and has played a transformative role in shaping the future of JA, locally and nationally. His leadership includes serving as Board Chair for Junior Achievement of Central Florida and as a member of the 3DE National Board of Directors, where he has helped redefine education and career readiness for students across the country.

Congratulations, Tim, on this well-deserved honor!

JA Around Town



9th-grade 3DE by Junior Achievement Business Coaching with Universal Orlando Resort at Ocoee High School.





9th-grade 3DE by Junior Achievement Business Coaching with Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida at East River High School.



Senior Consultancy Final Presentations by 3DE by Junior Achievement students at Oak Ridge High School. Thank you to the participating companies: AdventHealth, CHEP, Full Sail University, OCPS, and WESH 2 News.



Tim Myers with his wife Connie Myers and Karen Revels, JACF CEO & President at the Gold Leadership Award Ceremony.



Final Four Competition

3DE by Junior Achievement Students from Oak Ridge, Ocoee and Osceola High School had the opportunity to compete at the UCF Integrated Business Case Challenge Competition.



Our 3DE By Junior Achievement students at Innovation High School were selected to present at the Arby's National Case Challenge Competition!

We were incredibly proud of their poise and creativity as they show their solutions in front of executives at Arby's.

While our students didn't take home the win, they were winners in our hearts.

Congratulations to this brilliant team for their innovative solution and presentation.

Thank you to the business coaches and judges who supported and guided these students through the process.

3DE Guest Tours



Junior Achievement of Central Florida Leadership Council at the inaugural Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser. Thank you to our sponsors: Synergy Wealth Alliance, Addition Financial Credit Union, and 100units.com



April Volunteer Spotlight: Tyler Cehelnik

Tyler works in Brewer Morris's downtown Orlando office, specializing in recruiting high-level corporate talent. A Michigan State University graduate with a strong background in business and finance, he enjoys sharing real-world insight with the next generation.

He volunteers with Junior Achievement to inspire students the way mentors once inspired him. As a Leadership Council member, he values connecting with others who are passionate about making a difference.

When it comes to volunteering, Tyler encourages others to find something that genuinely speaks to their heart.

"Working with students in the classroom is incredibly fulfilling, once you experience the impact you can make, you'll want to keep showing up. It's a small investment of time that creates a lasting ripple for the next generation."



Our Oak Ridge High School students had a blast at the 3DE by Junior Achievement Market Expo.

Congratulations to the winning teams:



3DE by Junior Achievement Market Expo at Osceola High School was a success!

Congratulations to the winning teams:

1st Place: Dignity Delivery
2nd Place: Beloved



The FIRST 3DE by Junior Achievement Market Expo at Ocoee High School went off without a hitch! Everyone had a great experience, from our young

1st Place: Fleur de Luxe
2nd Place: The Sweet Retreat

3rd Place & Best Business Plan: Ms. Crochet

Honorable Mention: Chamoy Sweets

Other honors include:
Business to Watch: Los 1804

People's Choice: The Sweet Retreat

Best Spokesperson: Phoenix Reed

Best Customer Service: Bon Bagay 509

Best Logo: Eatalia

Thank you to our wonderful judges: Carlos Chinaa (3DE National), Jeans Santiago (8 Cents in a Jar), Nykeo Bell (CHEP), and Shannon Latimer, MBA (OCPS: CTE)

Bowls
3rd Place & Best Business Plan: Espresso 4 Depresso

Other honors include:

Business to Watch:

Unique Sweets

People's Choice:

Whisperia

Spirit of

Entrepreneurship: Ariana G.

Best Spokesperson:

Fabian M.

Best Logo: Cinematic Cuisine

Thank you to our wonderful judges: Tiffany Jeffers (Black Empowerment & Community Council/JALC), John Crowder (Bernhard MCC/JALC), Carlos Chinaa (3DE National), and Deborah (12th Grade 3DE by Junior Achievement Student).

entrepreneurs to our judges and community members.

Congratulations to the winning teams:

1st Place: Antojitos Caballeros

2nd Place: Papa's Slimeria

3rd Place: Chocolate Nibbles

Thank you to our wonderful judges:

Nate Melton

(KPMG), Zane

Carroll (Staples),

Carlos Chinaa (3DE National), and

Michelle Epstein

(Volunteer).

Together we are

**BUILDING
THE EXPERTS
OF TOMORROW.**



Our Partnership with Staples

As experts in the world of work and as a company of caring people, Staples is proud to continue our legacy of community involvement through our partnership with Junior Achievement. JA students have very bright futures ahead as entrepreneurs, leaders and business experts. We are ecstatic that they are playing a role in building the experts of tomorrow.



Announcing our JA Inspire Orange Presented by Staples Sponsors!

We are proud to announce our 2025 JA Inspire Orange Presented by Staples Sponsors! We are grateful for each of our sponsors' commitment to Orange County Students.

Presenting: Staples

Silver: Bank of America, AdventHealth, Publix Super Markets Charities

Bronze: CHEP, Enterprise Bank & Trust, Nemours Children's Health

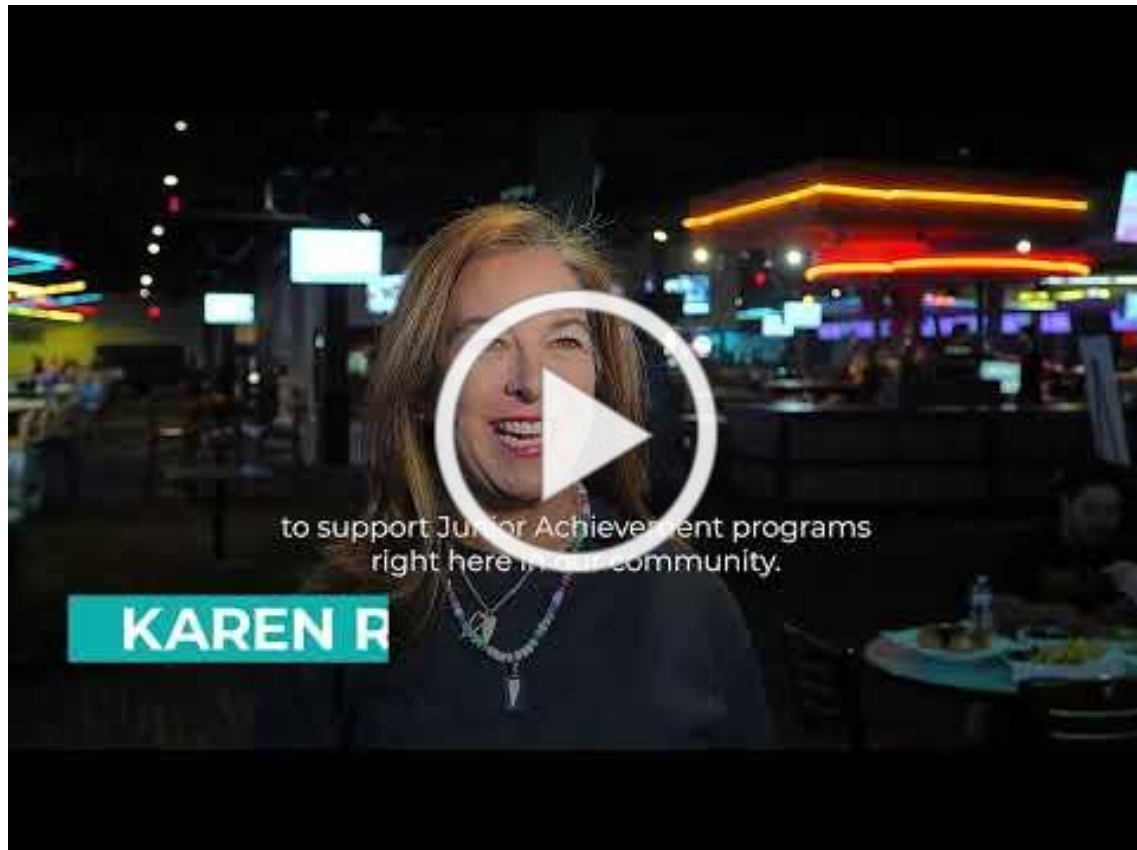
Career Station Sponsors: Finrock, Massey Services Inc, FAIRWINDS Credit Union, CORE Construction, Sunrise Bank, Orlando Health, Rosen Hotels & Resorts Orlando

Student Sponsors: VMG Mechanical, VMG Roofing Services, United Community Bank, MIDFLORIDA Credit Union, Shining on Safety, Miller Electric, Vivid Painting

Inspire Partners: Grassland Electrical Contracting & Services, Accenture, Florida Theatrical Association, Orlando Science Center, Valencia College, Chase Bank, WESH 2 News, Orange County Public Schools, 3DE by Junior Achievement, University of Central Florida.

With their help, we are empowering students to make informed decisions about their future and strengthening the local workforce by transforming hometown talent into hometown heroes.





Magical Weekend at Disney Bowl-A-Thon

In March, we held the annual Disney Bowl-A-Thon, a whirlwind weekend filled with fun and friendly competition all for JACF. Cast members, Contractors, and volunteers came out ready to have fun with costumes and electric energy.

We want our express our heartfelt gratitude to the cast members and partners for their support of JACF. Their unwavering drive for a better community continues to inspire us daily.

We can't wait to see everyone again at next year's Bowl-A-Thon.



We are incredibly grateful for partners like **PCL Construction Services**, who are committed to supporting Central Florida students through the Disney Bowl-A-Thon.

Thank you for your continued support of Junior Achievement of Central Florida. Your support of today's youth is laying the groundwork for the leaders of tomorrow.



Thank you **Regions Financial Foundation** for making a commitment to support the students of Central Florida.

Your investment today is helping to cultivate the leaders of tomorrow and shaping a brighter future for our community and beyond.



Partner Spotlight: Marco's Pizza

We recently held a meeting with Central Florida Marco's Pizza Franchisees. **Marco's Pizza** is Junior Achievement's newest partner and leading our "Big Dreams Start from Scratch" Campaign. During the campaign Marco's Pizza stores will invite guests to support Junior Achievement through rounding-up their change or a donation of \$1, \$3, or \$5.

We are incredibly grateful for their support and enthusiasm about Junior

Join us and Impact
Students

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

April 2-4: JA Inspire Orange Presented by
STAPLES

April 8: 3DE by Junior Achievement Tour (East
River High School)*

April 25: 3DE by Junior Achievement Tour
(Innovation High School)*

November 20: Hall of Fame

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

*must register in advance

Volunteer With Us!



We're currently seeking enthusiastic volunteers to participate in our Career Speaker Series for the Spring! Your involvement would greatly benefit our mission, and we'd love for you to consider these opportunities and even share them with your colleagues here in Central Florida. We have opportunities in both Orange and Osceola County.

Career Speaker volunteers, share their professional journey with students, inspiring and educating them about different career paths. It's a great way to connect with students and offer them insights into various industries and professions.

Sign up to become a Career
Speaker!



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