



# 2025 BUSINESS **HALL** *of* **FAME**

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Celebrating the  
**Past, Present, and Future**  
of Junior Achievement in Wabash Valley

***May 15, 2025***  
***5:30 PM - 8:00 PM***

***Vigo County History Center***  
***Terre Haute, Indiana***

March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Junior Achievement in Wabash Valley is incredibly grateful to start our Business Hall of Fame event back up and honor our 2025 Laureate and Award Winners.

Tonight, we are recognizing six exceptional individuals and organizations who embody various qualities like business excellence, courageous thinking and action, vision and innovation, inspirational leadership, and community support.

These award winners are not just role models for their peers but also for the students that JA serves. Their lifetimes of experiences and successes provide an inspiration to the younger generation to pursue their dreams with dedication and hard work.

We know these award winners will continue to inspire and prepare JA Alumni to pursue their goals and succeed in a global economy. Thank you all for demonstrating a commitment to our community and for investing in local students' futures.

With tremendous gratitude,

Madeline Plant  
Junior Achievement in Wabash Valley  
District Manager

# Our Past

This year, Junior Achievement in Wabash Valley (JA) is celebrating teaching financial literacy to students for the past 60 years.

In 1964, JA was introduced to the Wabash Valley as an after-school program that taught high school students how to run their own businesses. By the mid 70s, the community expressed the need for these concepts to be introduced at an earlier age, so JA began offering “Project Business” programs for middle schoolers and “Business Basics” programs for elementary students.

By the 1990s, JA had adopted a pathway of in-school programming that taught Kindergarten through High School students concepts of financial literacy, work and career readiness, and entrepreneurship. JA also introduced a unique learning experience called *Let's Get Real* that allowed middle school students the opportunity to be an adult for a day and learn how to budget for life's expenses.



Over the past 60 years, Junior Achievement in Wabash Valley has served over 130,000 students in our community.

# *Tonight's Program*

## **Cocktail Hour**

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

## **Buffet Style Dinner**

6:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

*Caesar Salad*

*Brie Crusted Chicken*

*Served with:*

*Garlic Smashed Potatoes*

*Glazed Baby Carrots*

*Prepared by The Saratoga*

## **Silent Auction Closes**

7:00 p.m.

## **Award Ceremony and Presentation**

7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.



# 2025 Award Winners



## **Laureate**

Larry Yargus

*B&S Plumbing, Crown Electric,  
Hannig Construction*



## **Volunteer of the Year**

Amanda Hogue

*Novelis*



## **Faculty Educator of the Year**

Rebecca Addleman

*Indiana State University*



## **Business Person of the Year**

Steve Kidwell

*Riddell National Bank*



## **Administrative Educator of the Year**

Teresa Stuckey

*Vigo County School Corporation*



## **Community Champion**

United Way of the  
Wabash Valley

# *Our Present*

Junior Achievement in Wabash Valley has grown to serve Pre-K through High School students in Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo counties in Indiana as well as Clark, Crawford, Cumberland, Edgar, Jasper, Lawrence, and Richland counties in Illinois.

## **JA BizTown and JA Finance Park Experiential Learning Center**

In addition to our in-class programming, JA in Wabash Valley opened a flex facility at the Learning Lab to house our two new Experiential Learning Programs: JA BizTown & JA Finance Park. The facility houses 11 Businesses that are sponsored by local organizations. JA BizTown is a unique learning experience where 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students work jobs, get paid, and operate a business for a day. JA Finance Park is an interactive simulation where 7<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grade students are assigned a random life scenario and must create a monthly budget based on their situation. Students complete 12 lessons of curriculum in the classroom before attending these learning experiences. This year, we have served 473 students through these experiences.

## **N.E.A.T. Experience Partnership**

JA partners with the Vigo County School Corporation to teach every 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grader during their annual N.E.A.T. field trip. While the students learn about different trades during the N.E.A.T. Experience, JA teaches financial literacy modules that correlate with the trades. To date, we have been able to serve 4,701 Vigo & Sullivan County students through this partnership.

# *Our Future*

## **Family Financial Literacy Workshops**

JA in Wabash Valley was selected to pilot JA USA's new Young Adult Financial Literacy program for college students with the ISU Men's and Women's Basketball teams. This new program focuses on preparing adults for successful futures by expanding on concepts like budgeting, taxes, debit and credit cards, and so much more!

Once we completed the pilot and saw the positive impact this program has on local adults, we applied for a grant from the United Way of the Wabash Valley to expand our services to reach families throughout our community. We are so grateful to have received the Financial Freedom for All grant from the United Way and will begin teaching JA's Young Adult Financial Literacy program to adults and families within our community. The program consists of five lessons, which we are turning into a week-long workshop that will serve parents as well as their children. We are lucky to partner with Ivy Tech Community College to offer a college transcript to any adult who completes all five lessons of the workshop. The grant will allow JA to provide this workshop at no cost to participants in Clay, Parke, Sullivan, Vermillion, and Vigo counties in Indiana and Clark County in Illinois for the next two years.

## **Clay County Satellite Board**

Due to the significant growth we have made over the past two years, we are excited to put together a Satellite Advisory Board in Clay County. If you are or know someone who may be interested in joining this board, please email [mplant@jastl.org](mailto:mplant@jastl.org). We will begin meeting this Summer 2025.

# Our Advisory Board of Directors

**Brandon Bennett**, Board President - *First Financial Bank*

**Phillip Myers**, Board Vice President - *Templeton Coal Co.*

**Sierra Young**, Board Secretary - *Union Health*

**Sade' Denton** - *Hamilton Center*

**Douglas "Doug" Dillion** - *Vigo County School Corporation*

**Abigail "Abby" Floyd** - *Republic Services*

**Cathy Hutchison** - *Staples Distribution Center*

**Sarah Mahady** - *Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College*

**James Twitchell** - *EPIC Insurance*

**Debra "Debbie" Skelton** - *Old National Bank*

**Sydney Wible** - *Woodforest National Bank*

## JA Staff

**Madeline Plant**, District Manager

**Alex Parker**, Program Manager

*Junior Achievement would like to thank the many Board Members, both past and present, who have helped this organization achieve so much success. Without these dedicated individuals, the organization could not serve so many Wabash Valley Students. Thank you all for your dedication!*



*Thank you to our  
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## Novelis Terre Haute is Proud to Support Junior Achievement

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For 65 years, we have proudly called Terre Haute home. Novelis is grateful for this community and our shared commitment to shape a promising and more sustainable future for all. Thank you to Junior Achievement in Wabash Valley, along with our many esteemed community partners and valued team members, who continue to develop, strengthen and nurture the spirit of our community. We are “shaping a sustainable world together” starting right here at home.

To learn more, please visit [Novelis.com](https://www.novelis.com).



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# *Special Thanks to our Event Sponsors*



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*~ Thank you to ~*

The Grand Traverse Pie Company for donating pies  
for dessert.

Mic Orman for taking pictures throughout the  
event.

Tabco for creating the awards & printing the  
programs.

Saratoga for providing a delicious meal.

And, all of the businesses who generously donated  
items to our silent auction including Staples,  
Maggie & Moe's Flower Shop, Lamar Advertising,  
Terre Haute Country Club, Al Ruckriegel and  
Midwest Communications!

# *Programs & Volunteer Information*

## **Elementary School Programs:**

- In-class volunteer opportunities
- In-class Career Speaker Series
- Career Fair

## **Middle & High School Programs:**

- In-class Career Speaker Series
- Career Fair

## **JA BizTown & JA Finance Park Programs:**

- 5-hour field trip volunteer opportunity

## **Other:**

- Family Financial Literacy Workshops
- N.E.A.T. Experience volunteer

Interested in getting involved?  
Scan the QR code to sign up:

