



NEWS RELEASE

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Edison High School Students Selected to Compete for Junior Achievement National "JA Company of the Year" Title

Local group of high school entrepreneurs to join 14 other teams in Washington, D.C., in June

Minneapolis, Minnesota – Four Junior Achievement (JA) of the Upper Midwest students have been selected to compete for the title of "JA Company of the Year" at the Junior Achievement National Student Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C. The students will spend June 16-18, in the nation's capital, networking and competing with more than 100 other students from across the United States.

The local students, representing Edison High School in Minneapolis, created a business called North East Caring Kids (NECK), one of only 15 business teams invited to compete at the event as part of their participation in *JA Company Program*[®].

In *JA Company Program*, students start and run a real business enterprise under the guidance of a volunteer from the local business community. They create and market a product or service and sell stock in their company. North East Caring Kids (NECK) produced and sold quality winter scarves that bring the community together in support of a common cause. The company was named 2014 JAUM Company of the Year at the regional competition on April 22, based on the students' demonstrated business acumen and spirit of entrepreneurship.

As part of the JA Company of the Year competition, high school entrepreneur teams produce a commercial about their company, present to a judging panel of business leaders, and sell their product or service in a trade fair on Capitol Hill. The trade fair will take place on Tuesday, June 17 in the Hart Senate Office Building. The event is open to the public from 2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. ET; free refreshments will be served.

The JA Company of the Year, along with the winners of several other awards, will be named at a gala awards dinner at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center's Pavilion Room the evening of June 18. The JA Company of the Year competition is co-sponsored by FedEx, NYSE Euronext Foundation, and Microsoft.

About Junior Achievement USA® (JA)

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices. JA programs are delivered by corporate and community volunteers, and provide relevant, hands-on experiences that give students from kindergarten through high school knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. Today, JA reaches 4.4 million students per year in 116 markets across the United States, with an additional 5.7 million students served by operations in 120 other countries worldwide. Visit www.ja.org for more information.

About Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest

Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest has been serving students in Minnesota, Western Wisconsin and North Dakota since 1949. This school year we will reach more than 152,000 students in grades K-12 with financial literacy, college and career readiness and entrepreneurship education. Our programs are implemented by more than 7,000 volunteers, mostly business professionals, who share their skills and experience to motivate and inspire students to succeed. Learn more at www.jaum.org.

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