

Summer 2021



100 YEARS. 100% READY.™

# surrounded by INSPIRATION



Since the March 10<sup>th</sup> launch of JA Virtual Inspire, it has been wildly motivating to hear the overwhelming responses from educators, students and businesses. How can you not feel inspired when a high school teacher shares that her students are begging for more time to explore the event? Or when a middle school student shares an “A-ha!” moment in connecting their interests with a local career?

We at JA of North Central Ohio are so thankful for the amazing community support of this inaugural event. At this point, 4,907 students from 60 schools (with more participating weekly!) have explored booths and watched videos from 69 businesses.

It was also inspiring to celebrate the achievements of our JA Company Program teams at this past April's JA Entrepreneurship Challenge. Eleven teams representing four schools showcased their products to a panel of judges; ultimately, Disease Defense of GlenOak High School placed first. More winners and details below!

### Lori McCleese

*President, Junior Achievement of North Central Ohio*  
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## Student Corner

### Disease Defense takes home top prize in JA Entrepreneurship Challenge

With eleven teams from four schools participating, the competition was fierce on April 22nd! But after 90 minutes of live presentations, the final decisions were made. Congratulations to the 2021 JA Entrepreneurship Challenge winners:



**1st Place**  
**Disease Defense**  
GlenOak High School



**2nd Place**  
**FinLit**  
Hoover High School



**3rd Place**  
**IceBreaker**  
GlenOak High School

Additional awards were given for teams exhibiting traits above and beyond in select categories:

- **Impact Award:** FinLit, Hoover High School
- **Innovation Award:** Disease Defense, GlenOak High School
- **Financial Performance Award:** FlexFit, Hoover High School
- **The Burton D. Morgan Foundation Entrepreneurial Excellence Award:** Jacob Cooke, IceBreaker, GlenOak High School

Finalists for the JA National Student Leader Summit (June 22nd - 24th), the national JA Company Program competition, will be announced on May 14th! Follow our social for updates!

A big, "Thank you!" to our competition judges: Jay Griffith, Jessica Hiner, Jon Mann, Tabitha

**Thank you to the dedicated teachers and volunteers** that made the JA Company program possible this year: Samantha Coldwell, Amanda DeFays, Shawn Donaldson, Mike Grady, Mike Nieporte, Aja Tompot, Ken Brott, Ed Casey, Peter Geis, Justin Lepley, Diane Pilati and Doug Pugh.

**Experience the Excitement Here!**

**Bring entrepreneurship to your students!**

Contact [Lori McCleese](#) or [Denice Schafer](#) by end of May to start conversation about the JA Company Program in your 2021-22 classroom!

## Dust off Your Clubs!

**With 3 chances to golf with JA, your favorite summer activity could impact more students than ever!**



**Shady Hollow Country Club**  
**(Massillon)**

*Monday, May 24th, 2021*  
8 AM Registration with 9 AM  
Shotgun start

**Raintree Golf Course**  
**(Uniontown)**

*Friday, June 25th, 2021*  
8 AM Registration with 9 AM  
Shotgun start

**Shelby Crossings Golf Course**  
**(Shelby)**

*Friday, August 13th, 2021*  
8 AM Registration with 9 AM  
Shotgun start

## New Addition to our Staff

A very warm welcome to **Doreen Thorne!** Doreen joins us as our Development & Grants Manager.

A long-time marketing and development professional, Doreen's latest role was with the Soap Box Derby. We are excited to have her on our team!

**Welcome, Doreen!**



## Community Corner

JA Virtual Inspire launched on March 10th, with teens from across 15 counties in attendance! In its first 60 days, we have been thrilled to hear the responses from students, teachers, businesses and community members!

I learned that I can do anything I put my mind to.  
**I have the choice to do what I want in the future.**

*Marlington Middle School, 8th grader*

**I learned how to discover opportunities,** as well as how my strengths in other fields can be used in my [main career] field.

*GlenOak High School, 12th grader*

Thank you to the 60 participating schools and 69 companies who continue to make our inaugural JA Virtual Inspire a success!

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*Get social with us - connect with **@JANCOhio** today!*

