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JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT (JA) RECEIVES CATERPILLAR'S CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

(Peoria, IL) – Junior Achievement of Central Illinois received the 2008 Chairman's Community Service Award from Caterpillar Inc. More than 70 employees from Caterpillar's Global Finance & Strategic Services Division volunteered nearly 400 hours to serve as Junior Achievement Classroom Consultants for students in Peoria School District 150 and various other schools during the fall 2008 semester.

In 2005, Jim Owens introduced the Chairman's Community Service Award to recognize community service and involvement. The award is designed to recognize examples of selfless deeds and commitment to the common good of the communities in which we work.

On June 17, the Junior Achievement of Central Illinois Board was presented with a financial contribution of \$25,000 from the Caterpillar Foundation on behalf of the employees who served as Classroom Consultants. The funds will be used to support the ongoing community service efforts of Cat employees, as well as the schools on which central Illinois relies.

"Just as I depend upon Team Caterpillar's extraordinary commitment to see us through these tough economic times, so, too, do our communities. Across the world, many of our friends, families, and neighbors are in need," said Caterpillar Chairman and CEO Jim Owens. "And Caterpillar employees are helping to meet those needs by generously giving of their time and resources."

This is the third year for the Chairman's Community Service Awards. Of the six Team Awards provided over the last three years (US & International), Junior Achievement has received the Team Award twice (2006: Financial Products Division Nashville & JA of Middle Tennessee and 2008: Global Finance & Strategic Services & JA of Central Illinois).

About Junior Achievement of Central Illinois

Junior Achievement of Central Illinois is one of the fastest growing JA offices in the United States, and there are 130 JA offices across all 50 states. Through a dedicated volunteer network, JA provides in-school programs on financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship to over 13,000 central Illinois K-12 students. JA has grown 255% in central Illinois since 2004, and now reaches over 615 classrooms in 7 counties. For more information, visit JuniorAchievement.biz.

About JA Worldwide®

JA Worldwide is the world's largest organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. Through a dedicated volunteer network, JA Worldwide provides in-school and after-school programs for students in grades K-12. JA Worldwide offers educational programs that focus on three key content areas: entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy. Today, 130 individual area operations reach approximately four million students in the United States, with an additional 5+ million students served by operations in 123 other countries worldwide. For more information, visit JA.org or JuniorAchievement.biz.

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