



NEWS RELEASE

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JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT (JA) OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS WINS PRESTIGIOUS ECONOMIC EDUCATION GRANT

MetLife Foundation helps local JA students develop essential financial skills.

[Peoria, IL] — Junior Achievement of Central Illinois has received a grant to empower area high school students to acquire skills that will enable them to determine their future economic success, thanks to the generous sponsorship of MetLife Foundation.

Junior Achievement of Central Illinois is one of only 16 JA operations worldwide to receive this year's MetLife Foundation grant to support the implementation of *JA Exploring Economics*[®]. The program, developed and piloted with a leadership grant from MetLife Foundation, helps make fundamental economic concepts both engaging and relatable for young adults. Participating students better understand the impact they have on the economy as consumers and taxpayers, and they learn important personal finance lessons around spending, saving and investing.

"MetLife Foundation and Junior Achievement share a commitment to preparing young people to succeed in the global economy. We are pleased to provide funding to help JA of Central Illinois put young people on the path to success," said Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation.

More than 200 students at Manual High School in Peoria and East Peoria Community High School benefited from this important funding. JA Classroom Consultant Volunteer Jerry Johnson of Caterpillar Inc., who taught *JA Exploring Economics*[®] at Manual, said, "The students were inspired. They really embraced the material and wanted to know more as they grow comfortable with me and the JA Economics material. Money, currency, and the global economy development and sustainment

were all items the students really enjoyed. They were very aggressive in asking questions and probing for more information. They were terrific!”

About JA Worldwide® (Junior Achievement)

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. Through a dedicated volunteer network, Junior Achievement provides in-school and after-school programs for students which focus on three key content areas: work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. Today, 127 individual area operations reach more than four million students in the United States, with an additional 5.8 million students served by operations in 123 other countries worldwide. For more information, visit www.ja.org.

About MetLife Foundation

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 by MetLife to carry on its longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Grants support health, education, civic and cultural programs. The Foundation has supported JA programs since 1979. In addition to sponsoring the Entrepreneurial Award since 2001, the Foundation has provided major funding for development and implementation of *JA Exploring Economics*®, a program that teaches high school students fundamental economic concepts. For more information about the Foundation, visit www.metlife.org.