

JA USA National Press Release

NEWS RELEASE

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Teen Entrepreneurs Achieve National Recognition at Future Bound by Junior Achievement

Students from Across the Country Earn National Honors

Colorado Springs, CO — On Wednesday, June 11, Junior Achievement (JA) announced award winners at the 2025 **Future Bound™** by Junior Achievement Awards Gala. **Future Bound by Junior Achievement**, held at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, showcased the talents and achievements of young entrepreneurs and innovators nationwide. The event featured four dynamic competitions, each highlighting the ingenuity and creativity of over 300 students.

Future Bound includes four unique competition tracks: JA Company of the Year, JA Social Innovation Challenge, JA Stock Market Challenge, and JA Titan Challenge.

JA Company of the Year Competition showcases student teams presenting and pitching their student-run businesses, where they are evaluated on various aspects of business performance and innovation.

JA Social Innovation Challenge is a competition where students are challenged to identify a social problem and develop a creative solution as a business enterprise, which they then present to a panel for review.

JA Stock Market Challenge is a competition where students engage in a fast-paced challenge of investing and trading fake funds in the real market, creating draft portfolios as teams and finalizing their stock selections to test their investing skills.

JA Titan Challenge showcases students who take on the role of business CEOs, making strategic decisions in areas like production, marketing, and R&D to compete for the title of JA Titan of Business.

The students competing at Future Bound underwent rigorous evaluation encompassing their business performance and individual team members' personal and professional growth. The competition's key components included creating a self-produced annual report and commercial, a captivating live virtual presentation to a distinguished panel of business leaders, and insightful interviews with esteemed judges.

The Future Bound Awards Gala served as the platform for presenting the coveted awards, including:

- **JA Company of the Year:** Awarded to the student businesses that most effectively demonstrated their companies' achievements, as well as the personal development of each team member.
 - First Place – **InnovaQuest** - JA of Southeastern Pennsylvania (Philadelphia Area)
 - Second Place – **Steer Clear** - JA of South Florida (Fort Lauderdale Area)
 - Third Place – **EVO (Elkins Very Own)** - JA of Southeast Texas (Houston Area)
- **JA Social Innovation Challenge:** Awarded student projects that reflect diverse solutions that address real-world challenges.
 - First Place – **Terra Feminine Products** - JA of Southeast Texas (Houston Area)
 - Second Place – **Compost Heroes** - JA of Southeast Texas (Houston Area)
 - Third Place – **Athletassist** - JA of Southeastern Michigan (Detroit Area)
- **JA Stock Market Challenge:** Awarded to the student team that achieves the highest return on their investment.
 - First Place – **Greed is Good** – JA of New York (New York City Area)
 - Second Place – **Futures Knights** – JA of Sacramento (Sacramento Area)
 - Third Place – **NWCTA** - JA of Washington
- **JA Titan Challenge:** Awarded to the student team that best demonstrates capability in financial decisions, marketing, research and development, and corporate social responsibility to earn the title of JA Titan of Business.
 - First Place – **Nathan & Charlie** - JA of Wisconsin
 - Second Place – **The Uncrowned Kings** - JA of Southeastern Pennsylvania (Philadelphia Area)
 - Third Place – **Vision Capitalists** - JA of Sacramento (Sacramento Area)
- **JA Staff Alumni Network Jim Sweeny Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence:** An award for an individual who demonstrates outstanding entrepreneurial spirit.
 - **Neha Varghese of EVO** - JA of Southeast Texas (Houston Area)
- **Chick-fil-A Community Impact Award:** Awarded to the JA Social Innovation team that has created a standout solution focused on impacting a local community need.
 - **Environet** - JA of the Space Coast (Melbourne, FL Area)
- **Delta Air Lines Social Impact Award:** Awarded to the JA Company Program team that created a solution to address a local, national, or global social concern.
 - **Green Garden Bakery** - JA North (Twin Cities, MN Area)
- **FedEx Global Possibilities Award:** Awarded to the JA Company Program team that best exhibits the principles of global connectivity.
 - **Calm Canvas** - JA of North Central Ohio (Akron/Canton Area)
- **ICE Best Financial Performance Award:** Awarded to the JA Company Program team that demonstrated the best financial results, including profitability, investor expectations, employee earnings, product quality, leadership, and operational efficiency.
 - **Charm Dept.** - JA of Greater Miami (Miami, FL Area)

- **Johnson & Johnson STEM Innovation Award:** Awarded to the JA Social Innovation team that used innovative science, technology, engineering, and math applications to create a positive community impact.
 - **Calm Pulse** - JA Rocky Mountain (Denver Area)
- **Mercedes-Benz USA Best Marketing Award:** Awarded to the top JA Titan Challenge team that demonstrated the best marketing efforts, as well as a review of market strategy related to customer responsiveness.
 - **Mediapolis One** - JA of the Heartland (Quad Cities Area)
- **Pacific Life Foundation Responsible Innovation Award:** An award for the JA Titan Challenge team that best demonstrated excellence in responsible innovation.
 - **Uncrowned Kings** - JA of Southeastern Pennsylvania (Philadelphia Area)
- **RSM Enduring Excellence Award:** Awarded to the JA Stock Market Challenge team that achieves outstanding results through holding onto their investments without selling frequently or making emotional decisions based on short-term market fluctuations.
 - **Heritage Gen Z Traders** - JA of the Space Coast (Melbourne, FL Area)
- **RSM Resilience Award:** Awarded to the JA Stock Market Challenge team that experiences the greatest recovery from an early setback in the challenge, showcasing resilience and smart adjustments to their strategy.
 - **Roaring Kitty** - JA of Angelina County, a District of JA of Dallas
- **Staples Sustainable Investing Award:** Awarded to the JA Stock Market Challenge team that made the highest gains through their investments in environmentally sustainable businesses/stocks.
 - **Dividend Divas** - JA of the Golden Triangle, a District Office of JA of Southeast Texas

Thank you to each of our award sponsors, as well as BlackRock, Emerson, Marco's Pizza Foundation, PMI Educational Foundation (PMIEF), Janus Henderson, and The Hartford for their generous support in ensuring the success of Future Bound. We are deeply grateful for their commitment to empowering young entrepreneurs and fostering a culture of innovation.

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 learning experiences 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. Additionally, Junior Achievement is expanding its reach to 18-to-25-year-olds to provide young adults with critical life skills, as well as to pre-K youth to ensure children get a solid head start. Today, JA reaches more than 4.6 million students per year in nearly 100 markets across the United States as part of 19.9 million students served by operations in more than 100 other countries worldwide. Junior Achievement USA is a member of JA Worldwide. For more information, visit www.ja.org.