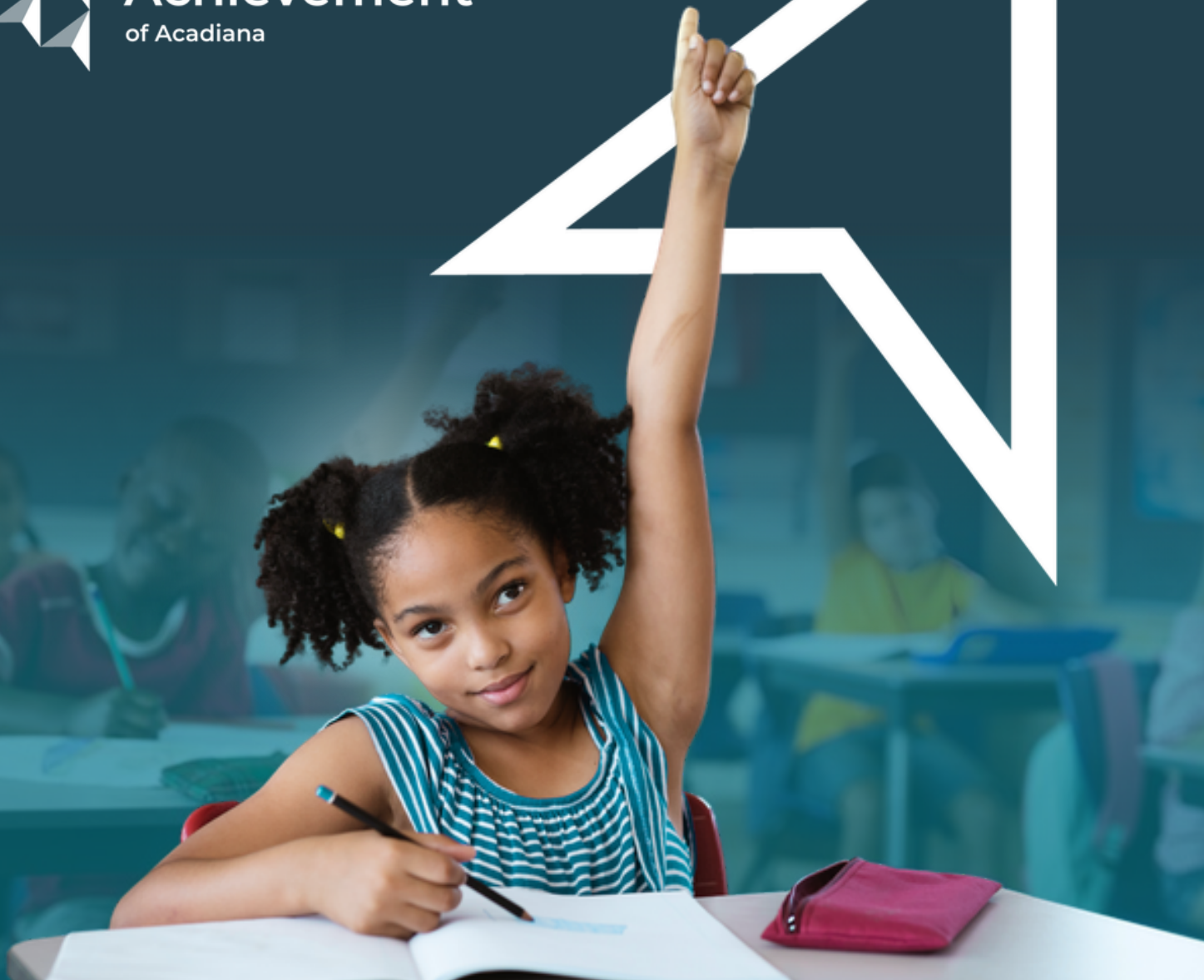


2025-2026

MISSION IMPACT REPORT



Junior
Achievement™
of Acadiana



CONFIDENT | CAPABLE | CONNECTED

WE WELCOME



Junior Achievement of Acadiana continues to make a lasting impact through a legacy built For a Changing World—delivering experiential learning where students achieve academically today and economically tomorrow.

Throughout the 2025–2026 school year, our educators, volunteers, partners, and supporters delivered meaningful, hands-on learning experiences that prepare students for what lies ahead. This report reflects the powerful collective impact of our community and our continued commitment to

EDUCATION FOR
WHAT'S NEXT™



ABOUT US

We are the nation's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their futures, and make smart academic and economic choices.

Junior Achievement's programs in the core content areas of work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy ignite the spark in young people to experience and realize the opportunities and realities of work and life in the 21st century.

BELIEF IN YOUTH

Trusting in the boundless potential of young people.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Fostering a, positive, and bias-free learning experience for all.

COLLABORATION

Nurturing partnerships with volunteers, educators, and the community.

PASSION & INTEGRITY

Approaching work with honesty, excellence, and dedication.

ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

Teaching principles of entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and career readiness.

INNOVATION

Embracing change and being bold, creative, and forward-thinking.

VALUES

THE “FUTURE OF WORK” IS HERE

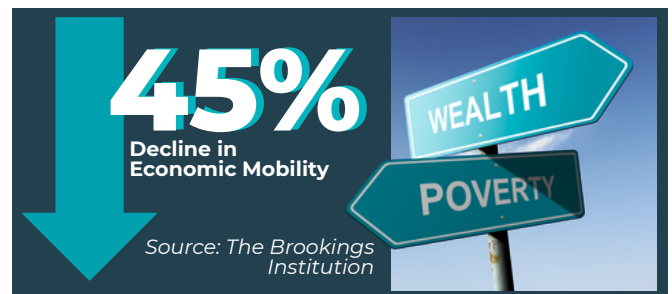
For more than a decade, there have been discussions about the need to prepare young people for the “Future of Work,” taking into consideration the impact of automation, AI, and societal changes on the employment prospects of the next generation. With the explosive growth of Generative AI in recent years, it’s apparent that the Future of Work is here, with some jobs already being eliminated due to the growing influence of these technologies. In fact, in its 2025 Future of Jobs Report, The World Economic Forum predicts 39 percent of current skillsets will be outdated in five years due to advances in AI.



THE IMPACT ON ECONOMIC MOBILITY AND GENERATIONAL OUTCOMES

Such advances in technology can have an adverse impact on the economic mobility of those unprepared for these changes. In fact, in recent decades the economic mobility of Americans – the ability to do as well or better than previous generations – has declined 45 percent, according to the Brookings Institution, due, in part, to previous technological innovations, like automation and information systems.

The decline in mobility can be linked to the growing impact of technology and globalization on earning potential. There was a time up until the early 1980s when a high school education was enough to sustain a quality standard of living in the U.S. Today, though, even a college education might not be enough as more than a third of college graduates are “underemployed,” meaning they work in



jobs that don’t require a college degree, and that may also pay less than a living wage. Recent advances in AI are threatening to negatively impact access to entry-level and even mid-level jobs for millions of Americans, contributing to downward pressure on economic mobility for this and future generations.

EDUCATION FOR WHAT'S NEXT

Research by Georgetown University indicates that by 2031, 70 percent of jobs will require education or training beyond high school. Currently, though, only one-in-three high school graduates go on to complete a college degree, with many of those being in fields that are not in high earning, high growth professions.

So, what's the response to this challenge? According to the Camber Collective, the top four life experiences expected to positively affect lifetime earnings are 1) completing secondary education, 2) graduating with a degree in a high-paying field of study, **3) receiving mentorship during adolescence**, and 4) obtaining a first full-time job with opportunity for advancement. Job skills training and business ownership can also be beneficial. These experiences can contribute to gaining the transferable skills and competencies, such as creative and critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and continuous learning, needed to succeed in our rapidly changing economy.

At Junior Achievement, our learning experiences are demonstrated to promote the skills and competencies needed to promote economic mobility. We believe every student deserves a future filled with choices and opportunities. That's why we focus on what drives real economic mobility by helping students become confident, capable, competent, and connected.



Through career-connected learning, we help students:

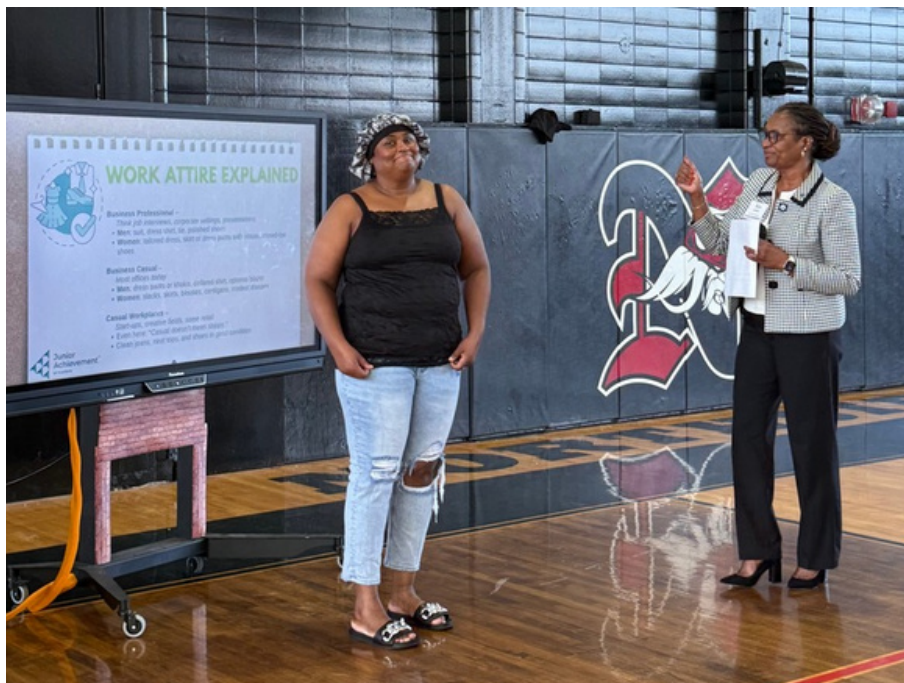
- **Build Confidence** – Cultivating mindsets that spark engagement and belief in their potential.
- **Gain Capability** – Developing transferable skills and competencies for a changing world.
- **Show Competence** – Reinforcing behaviors through academic achievement and applied learning.
- **Get Connected** – Expanding access to networks, mentors, and meaningful opportunities.

By partnering with schools and communities, we unlock potential and accelerate mobility at scale while expanding access to opportunity-filled futures. In this way, Junior Achievement promotes education for what's next.

To learn more, visit: [JA.org](https://www.ja.org)

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

The success of Junior Achievement of Acadiana is driven by the generosity and commitment of our donors and community partners. Through their investment of time, talent, and resources, students gain access to meaningful, real-world learning experiences that create lasting academic and economic outcomes. Together, our partners make Education for What's Next possible—strengthening our community today while shaping a more prepared workforce for the future.



2025-26

MISSION IMPACT REPORT



VOLUNTEER IMPACT

160

Community Volunteers



We had an amazing group of young ladies who showed so much interest in both workforce and in sharing their personal interests. It was an extremely rewarding experience to converse with these amazing young ladies and connect through common experiences.



- VOLUNTEER | FIRST HORIZON



I was so happy to see what this amazing program is teaching. I wish I had something like this when I was growing up. It is very engaging and lets them have hands on learning to teach them important money principle."

-VOLUNTEER | FIRST GUARANTY BANK



IMPLEMENTATION

60+

IMPACT PARTNERS

Our impact partners expand our reach and strengthen our mission. Together, we created greater opportunities and deepened our impact in the communities we serve.

263 CLASSES

7,000+ STUDENTS

182 TEACHERS

45 SCHOOLS

42,410

Individual Contact Hours (ICH)

OUTCOMES

Our outcomes reflect the real, measurable difference our work makes in the lives of those we serve. Through focused efforts and strong partnerships, we're driving meaningful, lasting change in our community.

87%

COLLEGE READY

87% of Gen Y & Z JA alumni say that they continued their education after high school, crediting Junior Achievement.

+90%

STRENGTHENED CRITICAL THINKING

Nine in ten JA alumni say that Junior Achievement helped them improve their critical thinking skills (90%).

92%

FUTURE READY

92% of JA Alumni agree, "As technologies like automation and AI change jobs and the economy, students who participate in JA are going to be better prepared for the future."

PROGRAMS FUNDED BY DONORS LIKE YOU



JA IN A DAY

A condensed, one-day program where volunteers deliver Junior Achievement curriculum to teach students essential financial literacy and workforce readiness skills.

GRADES K-5



FINANCIAL LITERACY MANDATE

This modular and comprehensive course is designed to address Louisiana's personal finance education goals, and it incorporates educator-led lessons, student self-guided activities, case studies, and experiential capstone enhancements.



JA BIZTOWN

An interactive simulation where students run a mock city, manage businesses, and learn key concepts in economics, entrepreneurship, and personal finance.



FINANCE PARK

A real-world simulation that helps students and adults build budgeting and financial decision-making skills as they navigate life scenarios and manage personal finances.



LEADING LADIES

A development program that empowers high school young women through mentorship, confidence-building activities, and career readiness experiences.



MENTORING MEN

A program that connects high school male students with positive male role models who provide guidance, encouragement, and real-world insights to support personal and academic growth.



YOUNG ACHIEVERS



22

CLASSES

4386

STUDENTS
SERVED

Program Objectives

The specific learning objectives are tailored by grade level (ranging from kindergarten to middle school), but generally aim to help students.

Financial Literacy

Differentiate between needs and wants, understand how to earn and manage money, and grasp basic concepts like personal economics and saving.

Workforce Readiness:

Identify personal soft skills, connect schoolwork to future career opportunities, and explore regional supply chains and labor markets.

Entrepreneurship: Learn the basics of starting a business, identify personal entrepreneurial skills, and understand how money flows through a local economy.

YOUNG ACHIEVERS



These amazing partners have all provided support to make these mentoring programs possible.

Louisiana Blue
Red River Bank
First National Bank of Jenerette
VieMed
Capital One
Investar Bank
Lemoine Company
The Picard Group
Meritus Credit Union
ARCA

Community Coffee
Eisner Amper
Acadian Companies
The Pinnacle Group
Hancock Whitney
McLaff
B1 Bank
First Horizon
St. Pius Catholic School



MENTORSHIP MATTERS



**MENTORING
MEN**
INSPIRE. LEAD. SUCCEED.



**LEADING
LADIES**
INSPIRE. LEAD. SUCCEED.

10

MENTORING
EVENTS

550

STUDENTS
MENTORED



Assessment Objectives

Pre- and post-tests measured knowledge gains in life skills and career readiness among program participants.



Skills Evaluated

Tests focused on financial literacy, interview etiquette, and entrepreneurial concepts essential for adulthood.



Data-Driven Insights

Comparing pre/post results offered actionable insights to refine mentoring strategies and curriculum design.





**LEADING
LADIES** 
INSPIRE. LEAD. SUCCEED.



**MENTORING
MEN** 
INSPIRE. LEAD. SUCCEED.

PRE and POST TESTS



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Pre- and post-tests measured knowledge gains in life skills and career readiness among program participants.



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Data-Driven Insights

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PRE-TEST RESULTS

Question	Correct Response Rate
Soft Skills Definition	85.90%
Job Interview First	63.00%
Debit Card Advantage	81.50%
Investment Advisor Role	84.40%
Workplace Ethics	86.70%

POST-TEST RESULTS

Question	Correct Answer Rate
Soft Skills Definition	93.50%
Job Interview First	58.40%
Debit Card Advantage	77.90%
Investment Advisor Role	86.90%
Workplace Ethics	90.90%

MENTOR PROGRAM GROWTH SUMMARY



Financial Literacy Growth:

Pre-test results showed significant gaps in students' understanding of real-world financial responsibilities, particularly around monthly household bills and grocery savings strategies. **After participating** in the mentor program, students demonstrated a **strong and measurable increase** in financial literacy, with the majority **accurately identifying** realistic bill counts and practical money-saving tools. This growth reflects **meaningful progress** toward long-term financial readiness.

Career & Interview Readiness:

Students entered the program with basic awareness of interview expectations but lacked confidence and prioritization skills. Post-test results show **substantial improvement**, with students reporting **increased preparedness** for interviews and a **clearer understanding of professional behaviors** such as eye contact, communication, punctuality, and presentation skills essential for workforce success.

MENTOR PROGRAM GROWTH SUMMARY

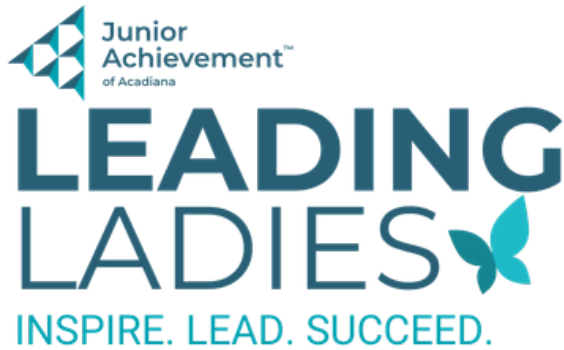


Goal Setting & Vision Development:

While most students already understood the concept of setting goals, the program **strengthened** their ability to connect long-term vision with actionable steps. Post-test reflections indicate students are not only **setting future goals, but also understanding pathways** to achieve them through education, career planning, and financial decision-making.

Confidence & Future Orientation:

One of the most **notable outcomes** was growth in student confidence. Post-test surveys show **overwhelming agreement that the program helped students feel more confident** about their future success. Mentor engagement played a key role, helping students translate abstract aspirations into realistic, achievable plans. This **confidence** is a critical driver of sustained academic and career engagement.



Discussion/Activity Topics

Entry-Level Job Search
Entry-level Resume template
Job Interview Success Path
Entrepreneurial Experience: Build a Product

Measurable Impact of Your Investment

The Junior Achievement of Acadiana ***Leading Ladies*** and ***Mentoring Men*** programs deliver measurable, data-driven outcomes: increased financial literacy, stronger career readiness, clearer goal setting, and greater student confidence.

These results demonstrate that **YOUR** investment directly translates into improved life skills and future preparedness for local students.



TESTIMONIALS

LEADING LADIES & MENTORING MEN

“

This is the first time I attend this program. It was awesome! I believe this is a wonderful program for these students.

~ **Mentor**, JA Mentoring Men Program

”

“

This project has a lasting impact, the day after participating in JA's Mentoring Men, all the students came to school dressed as young professional, carrying their folio from the project. Our young ladies, who will participate in JA Leading Ladies today, shared they will do the same. In the project they learned how to see themselves as young professionals and it is something that I would like to find ways to continue as an ongoing effort – to create a Young Professionals Day. Thank you for impacting their viewpoint. ~ **Volunteer Mentor**, School Principal

”

“

I have been volunteering with JA for 9 years. My favorite program is JA Leading Ladies. ~ **Volunteer Mentor** – Leading Ladies Program

”



**MENTORING
MEN** 
INSPIRE. LEAD. SUCCEED.



**LEADING
LADIES** 
INSPIRE. LEAD. SUCCEED.



**MENTORING
MEN**



INSPIRE. LEAD. SUCCEED.



**LEADING
LADIES**



INSPIRE. LEAD. SUCCEED.

*These amazing partners have all provided support to make
these mentoring programs possible.*



**FMOL
Health**

**Our Lady
of Lourdes**



**FIRST
HORIZON BANK**

COX Charities



MERITUS
CREDIT UNION



South Louisiana
Community College



JUNIOR LEAGUE OF
LAFAYETTE



**Junior
Achievement**
of Acadiana

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE



Junior Achievement
BizTown®

1

**PARISHES
SERVED**

5

**JA BIZTOWN
EVENTS**

460

**STUDENTS
EXPERIENCES**



The JA BizTown pre- and post-tests measure students' understanding of essential economic, financial, and workplace concepts before and after participating in the BizTown simulation experience.



These assessments help demonstrate learning growth in areas such as banking basics, money management, the role of business, civic responsibility, and foundational career-readiness skills.



Results also identify key areas for continued instructional focus—including résumé skills, economics fundamentals, and net pay—which can guide future enhancements to JA programming and volunteer support.

JA BIZTOWN

GROWTH SUMMARY



Students showed **consistent, measurable growth** in financial operations, economic roles, and workplace readiness.

Significant **improvement** in practical financial literacy, especially choosing the correct bank product and understanding debit transactions.

Noticeable **growth** in basic economic thinking, particularly recognizing the role of business and advertising in markets.

Students showed **increasing confidence** in workplace norms, indicating the JA experience strengthened career-readiness foundations.

TESTIMONIALS

REAL WORDS. REAL IMPACT.

Thank you our lady of kids
for donating to the wellness center.
I had a great time!!



-Love! Lillian N

-Wellness LLC

Dear Sponsors,
thank you so much for sponsoring
Biztown so we could make this happen
and so we could be here.

Thank you!

Love,
Wellness coordinator
Elise Lefranca.

Thank you, Lemoine, for letting me
be part of biztown. I learned that CE
Engineering is a lot of work. Also payin
all the bills and stuff is stressful.

From:

Kai Bourque

THANK YOU PARISH PROUD!!
Working as a CEO for Parish Proud
has taught me that donating is not
just for charity but for the community.
Also that littering is terrible for the
community etc.

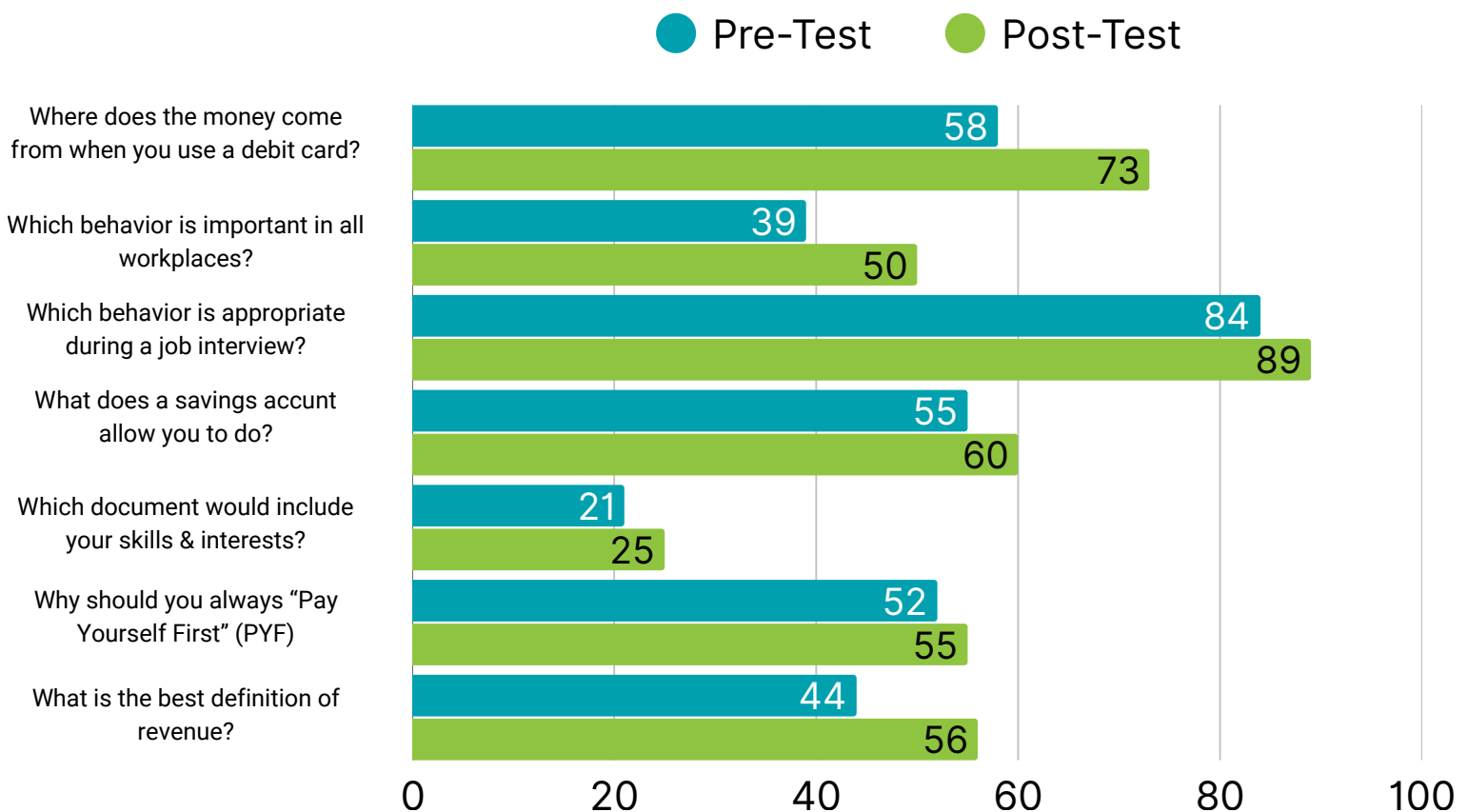
-Charity CEO

-Once again thank you!

REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE



Knowledge Gains: Pre vs Post



*Values are shown in %



REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE



THANK YOU TO THESE SPONSORS



A SPECIAL THANK YOU



**Junior
Achievement™**
of Acadiana

PIONEERING POSSIBILITIES *An Executive Luncheon*

THANK YOU TO THESE DONORS WHO HELPED MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN ACADIANA'S FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION



Bob Giles, Host



Kyle Kellner, Co-Host



Jo Spell, Co-Host

Anthony Moroux
Ben Baudoin
Bernie Dupree
Bob Giles Automotive
Braden Despot
Community Coffee
Cox Communications
CP Hilliard
Emile Joseph

Flo Meadows
Jeffrey Landry
Jordan Daigle
Josh Hurd
Kevin Latiolais
Paden Alleman
Pat Reagan
Schumacher Fly Fdn
The Picard Group

Timothy Metcalf

For years, Bob Giles has been a dedicated champion of Junior Achievement of Acadiana, investing his time, resources, and passion to help young people succeed. Through his longstanding leadership of the Pioneering Possibilities Executive Luncheon, he has helped raise more than \$252,000 to support JA programs in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship.

Bob also brings learning to life through his "All About Cars" events, where high school students gain practical knowledge about vehicle ownership, maintenance, and the responsibilities that come with adulthood. These hands-on experiences help students build confidence, problem-solving skills, and independence.

Through his leadership, generosity, and commitment to education, Bob Giles has made a lasting impact on thousands of students and exemplifies what it means to be a true community champion.

MONTHLY RAINMAKER DONORS

**Rhonda Seaux
Eddie Buttross**

**Lauren Bercier
Chris Kesel**

Heather DeValcourt

SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

In 2026, Junior Achievement once again brought its mission to life through a series of impactful and inspiring events. From the excitement of the Kings of Swing Topgolf Challenge to the elegance of the Business Hall of Fame and the continued momentum of the Pioneering Possibilities Luncheon, each gathering united our community around a shared commitment to preparing young people for success. These events not only generated critical support for our programs but also strengthened connections with the volunteers, donors, and partners who make our work possible every day.



KINGS OF SWING

The Kings of Swing Topgolf Challenge presented by **First National Bank of Jeanerette** brought together local leaders for a fun-filled evening of friendly competition and networking—all in support of Junior Achievement's in-school initiatives. With strong community turnout and generous sponsorships, the event raised \$34,166 to bring JA programs to more students across the region. [CLICK HERE](#) to relive the entire event.



JA BUSINESS HALL OF FAME

The Acadiana Business Hall of Fame honored exceptional business leaders whose contributions have made a lasting impact on the region. Presented by **First Horizon Bank**, the evening celebrated their achievements while **raising an impressive \$101,000 in support of Junior Achievement's mission**. The event showcased strong community support and underscored the importance of mentorship, leadership, and investing in future generations.

To see highlights from the event, including photos and videos, visit Junior Achievement of Acadiana's Facebook page [HERE](#).



WITH GRATITUDE

Because of you—our partners, generous supporters, volunteers, and educators,—Junior Achievement of Greater Baton Rouge continues to inspire and prepare young people to succeed. Your time, investment, and belief in our mission open doors for students across our community, equipping them with the knowledge and confidence to own their futures.

Each classroom lesson, mentorship conversation, and hands-on experience reflects the powerful impact of your commitment.

As we look ahead, we do so with deep appreciation and renewed purpose. Together, we are building a stronger Baton Rouge where every student has the opportunity to dream boldly and achieve greatly. Thank you for standing with us and making this mission possible.

CONTACT US

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