



**Junior Achievement™**

Staff Alumni Network  
A Pioneer Legacy

## 2022 NLC Scholarship Recipients Say, “Thank you”

Just a small note to express my very great gratitude for the opportunity that this scholarship affords me – attendance at the NLC would have been a stretch for me any year, but in the aftermath of a pandemic, it would have been impossible.

**Jan O’Connell**, Chief of Staff, JA Washington

I am incredibly grateful to you and the Junior Achievement Staff Alumni Network for the generosity in sponsoring my scholarship to attend NLC this year. The professional development NLC provides along with the staff comradery and networking is very much needed.

**Maria Ramos**, Senior VP Education and Operations, JA Chicago

I am honored to be selected as a NLC scholarship recipient for 2022. Thank you for your commitment to JA and investing in professional development. You have given me the opportunity to attend the conference this year. Know that this scholarship will not go to waste and that I will soak it all in. I am looking forward to connecting with colleagues and learning more about where we are going. Thank you again. So grateful.

**Tiffany Guthrie**, Director of Development, JA North Florida

On behalf of the youth Junior Achievement of Hawaii will reach in the coming years, I want to give a heart felt mahalo for helping me grow into this role as we all seek to improve the future.

Living in Hawaii we are at times a bit cut off from the rest of the world, so I believe NLC is vital to my growth and understanding of JA, and yet being out in the middle of the Pacific Ocean causes significant travel issues. I am almost certain that without this scholarship I would not be attending NLC this year.

The level of professionalism throughout the JA network is impressive, but even more impressive is the tenure of many chapter presidents. It speaks volumes about the commitment of the leadership of Junior Achievement. Now, through this scholarship I learn of JASAN and once again am reminded of the amazing organization I have joined, and the depth of the people involved. This scholarship further adds to my personal commitment to give my all to the youth of Hawaii – through Junior Achievement.

Mahalo nui loa,  
**David Earles**, President, JA Hawaii

I am so thankful to receive a JASAN scholarship for the upcoming National Leadership Conference. I really appreciate the opportunity to attend NLC, to network and learn from others, so that I can bring back new ideas and best practices to implement in my district office. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity. I look forward to meeting and thanking you in person at the scholarship breakfast!

**Staci Hodges**, Executive Director, JA East Texas



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I wanted to drop a note and say "thank you" for the JASAN scholarship. I have been with JA a little over 3 months, and I am looking forward to the conference in Dallas. It will be a wonderful opportunity to learn and meet so many people in person.

**Stephanie Gambone**, President & CEO,  
JA Southeastern PA

Thank you so very much for selecting me as a recipient to attend the NLC event in Dallas, Fort Worth Texas in July.

I have been the Vice President of Philanthropy at Junior Achievement for Southeastern Michigan for 3 years and am very much looking forward to attending my *very first NCL Conference*, thanks to JASAN. Additionally, I am looking forward to meeting the committee at the breakfast to thank all of you personally.

Please know that I am very appreciative of this honor and excited to be able to meet and exchange ideas and strategies with other colleagues around the country. Again, thank you once more for this opportunity.

**Crystal Smith**, Vice President Philanthropy, JA Southeaster Michigan

I am the Development & Program Director for JA of West Kentucky. I just wanted to send a quick note to thank the Staff Alumni Network for their generous scholarship to allow me to attend the 2022 NLC. In July, I will have been with JA for 9 years, working in 2 different offices, and in both programming and fundraising. I am looking forward to learning about new ideas and programs at the conference, as well as learning best practices from my fellow colleagues. Again, thank you for the opportunity, and I look forward to seeing you in Texas!

**Autumne Baker**, Development & Program Director, JA  
West Kentucky

I want to take the time to send my sincerest appreciation to you all for choosing me to receive a scholarship to attend this year's NLC. I have worked with Junior Achievement for over 5 years (Education Manager) and less than 6 months in the role of Area President. It means the world to me to be able to attend a training session. There are many challenges in my area, and I know the training will help me to find solutions to overcome them. I want to extend my gratitude for this opportunity.

**Ashlee Simpson**, Area President, JA NWF

Thank you so much for providing me with a scholarship to attend this year's Junior Achievement National Leadership Conference. I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to discuss JA's values and mission with other JA areas across the country. I can't wait to have the opportunity to learn from other JA Areas and explore new JA initiatives. Hopefully, I can bring some of these great tools and ideas back to our state so that we can continue to impact the young people of New Mexico as well as collectively across the country!

**Lindsay Humphries**, Program Director, JA New Mexico

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I just wanted to reach out and tell you how grateful I am to receive a scholarship this year for the JA National Leadership Conference this July! This is always such a valuable four days of my year and I always leave with so many ideas to grow JA of Lincoln.

Thank you so much for allowing me this wonderful opportunity!

**Tera Norris**, President, JA Lincoln

Thank you so very much for the scholarships to attend the JA USA NLC in Ft. Worth next month. I am very grateful for the opportunity to attend as this will be my first JA National Leadership Conference! I have been with the organization since September of 2019, and this will be the first in person NLC during my tenure.

**Janie Cook**, President, JA South Texas

Thank you so very much for selecting me as a recipient to attend the NLC event in Dallas, Fort Worth Texas in July. I have been the Vice President of Philanthropy at Junior Achievement for Southeastern Michigan for 3 years and am very much looking forward to attending my *very first NCL Conference*, thanks to JASAN. Additionally, I am looking forward to meeting the committee at the breakfast to thank all of you personally. Please know that I am very appreciative of this honor and excited to be able to meet and exchange ideas and strategies with other colleagues around the country. Again, thank you once more for this opportunity.

**Crystal Smith**, Vice President Philanthropy, JA Southeaster Michigan

I am writing to express my gratitude for being a recipient of the JASAN scholarship for the JA National Leadership Conference next month. It is an honor to have been selected by my JA Area President to receive this scholarship.

It will be an extra special NLC experience for me personally since I'll be celebrating 15 years with JA of Central Illinois this summer! Another reason I'm very excited to attend is due to being able to finally meet people in person that I've been virtually collaborating with through various JA USA work groups and webinars over the last couple years.

Since our JA Area is a small market with a small (but mighty) team, we do not have many chances to participate in NLC or regional JA conferences when they are held in person. The transportation & hotel expenses can be cost prohibitive for even one of our team members to attend when things are far away. This scholarship has made it possible for me to attend this year, and I am very grateful.

Thank you so much for this opportunity. It is greatly appreciated!

**Angie Houck**, Program Director, JA Central Illinois



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I arrived at the JA National Leadership Conference yesterday evening and am enjoying my first day. I wanted to thank JASAN for the scholarship that allowed me to attend this year's conference in Fort Worth.

This is my first NLC because I started working at JA in 2019 and there hasn't been another conference since then. I know what I learn here and the connections I make will be extremely valuable for expanding the JA presence in my Eastern Indiana district.

Thank you again and have a great day!

**Melissa Davis** | District Director  
**Junior Achievement of Eastern Indiana**

As a recipient of JASAN's Leadership Conference Scholarship program, I extend my gratitude for your support of this initiative. I also wish to share the gratitude of the entire JA of Western MA team.

Two days in, this year's conference has provided rich learning experiences and networking opportunities that will certainly benefit our chapter, particularly as we begin our capital campaign in support of a workforce readiness center in Springfield, MA.

I look forward to meeting you at the scholarship breakfast and again thank you for your support.

Respectfully,

**William Dziura**, Development Director **Junior Achievement of Western Massachusetts**