



Staff Alumni Network  
A Pioneer Legacy

## 2023 NLC Scholarship Recipients Say, "Thank you"

Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Junior Achievement National Leadership Conference. I am truly grateful to have been in attendance, because of your generosity.

With sincere gratitude, we deeply appreciate your support of Junior Achievement.

**Melissa Bassemier**, Senior Marketing Manager, JA of Southwestern IN

Thank you so much for awarding me the \$1,000 scholarship to attend the 2023 Junior Achievement NLC in Louisville! It is nice to connect with other JA folks from around the country. I truly appreciate the opportunity.

Warmest regards,

**Renee Penney**, Special Events Director, JA of Chattanooga

I wanted to personally reach out and thank you for the Scholarship to attend the Junior Achievement National Leadership Conference.

I am a new President to Junior Achievement and look forward to the learning and networking opportunity.

**Toni Rupe**, President, JA of Lincoln

I'm reaching out with a heartfelt thank you for the generous scholarship to attend the National Leadership Conference this year! I truly cannot thank you enough for this wonderful opportunity to attend the NLC this year.

We are a new team of four employees at Junior Achievement of Northeastern Pennsylvania and would not have been able to justify the expense for me to attend the conference without this scholarship. This opportunity will allow me to expand our JA network and make connections with our colleagues from across the nation.

Our experiences with other JA's thus far have been amazing. Everyone we have met and spoken with has been incredibly helpful and generous; it has been like joining a family.

I look forward to meeting everyone at the conference and particularly at the breakfast meeting on July 27.

Thank you again. I am humbled and blessed by your generosity.

**Brandy Lewis**, Director of Operations, JA of NEPA

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend the National Leadership Conference. As a relatively new associate, this opportunity and experience was enlightening and inspiring. It is a reminder that we are a team that supports each other. Because of you, I am better, my area is better, and my community is better.

Thank you!



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Aloha from Hawaii!

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible opportunity to attend JA USA's National Leadership Conference, made possible by the generous JASAN scholarship. As a representative of a small JA area in beautiful Hawaii, this experience has been nothing short of transformative.

The chance to immerse myself in the dynamic environment of the National Leadership Conference has expanded my horizons, introduced me to a wealth of new ideas, and connected me with inspiring individuals from all corners of the country.

Coming from a tight-knit community in Hawaii, the opportunity to participate in such an enriching event would not have been possible without your invaluable sponsorship. Your belief in the potential of individuals like me drives us to strive for excellence and make a lasting impact.

I am truly honored to have been selected as a recipient of the JASAN scholarship, and I am committed to applying the knowledge and insights gained during the conference to further the mission of Junior Achievement and contribute positively to our community. Your support has not only bolstered my personal growth but has also deepened my dedication to our cause.

Once again, I extend my deepest appreciation for your generosity and support. Mahalo, mahalo, mahalo!

**Laura Robinson**, District Manager, JA of Hawaii Island



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I wanted to take a moment to share my thanks to you and the entire JA Staff Alumni Network for the scholarship opportunity to attend the upcoming NLC. This is my first chance to attend this conference, and I'm humbled, grateful, and excited for this chance to grow professionally and to connect with fellow JA associates.

I look forward to a week of learning and connecting that I can bring back and share with the JA of Northern Indiana team!

**Karen Cooper**, VP of Capstone Experiences, JA of Northern IN

I wanted to reach out and introduce myself to you because I am the recipient of your generous sponsorship to attend the National Leadership Conference for JA this summer. Thank you so much for making this trip possible for me. I am representing an office of nine staff from Junior Achievement of Central Florida, and I am so excited to learn and grow and then take that new information back to my team.

Our work in Central Florida is vital to our school districts. This school year, we tripled our programming in Orange County Public Schools, which resulted in over 100,000 students being served. We are so proud and excited for this transformational work in our community. But growth is no sustainable without the support and knowledge from JA USA, which is what this conference will do for our organization.

Thank you again for your generosity! It is making a difference here in Central Florida!

**Katie Brown**, Chief Operating Officer, JA of Central Florida

I am the Community and Workforce Development Manager at JA Cleveland. I was able to attend the JA National Leadership Conference at the end of July in Louisville, KY.

This was my first JA NLC, and it was a wonderful experience. I was able to connect with JA Staff from all over the country and learn about the innovation happening in other JA Areas.

**Larrese Gooden**

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Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend JA NLC this year. I made friends across the country that I will cherish for years to come. It's truly a blessing to be a part of such a caring and amazing organization and to be supported by its alumni Staff Network. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you so much for the scholarship to attend NLC last month. It was such a valuable experience and I've enjoyed sharing the learning and inspiration with others on my team this past month. Thank you for the work you do to support continued learning for JA Associates!

Thank you so much for providing a scholarship for me to attend NLC. Being a very small office with a tight budget, I wouldn't have been able to attend otherwise.  
It was a great conference.

Dear JA Staff Alumni Network,  
Please accept my heartfelt thank you for the generous scholarship to attend NLC this year! It was an amazing conference with terrific workshops and speakers and a great opportunity to connect with my counterparts around the country. This would not have been possible without your generosity.

I am humbled and blessed to have received this scholarship.

Just a little note to say THANK YOU! My time at JA's NLC was invaluable and the JASAN scholarship helped me get there. Thank you for your generosity and provision. I met other Development Directors and we've remained in touch, sharing ideas, feedback and database tricks. When I say "invaluable", I mean it!

There are few words I can put in this card to accurately articulate my appreciation for your scholarship and the opportunity you gave me to attend NLC. I'll start here, though. THANK YOU! Every minute of my time on that trip was inspiring and you made that possible.

I wanted to send you a note to thank you for the scholarship provided by JASAN allowing me to attend NLC. Having the opportunity for greater learning and networking is invaluable toward my personal success at JA. I so appreciate JASAN's investment in me, and my area. It is my goal to turn that investment into a greater impact in my area!