JA Company Program® student teams incubate and foster a real startup, advancing to compete against other student companies in a national pitch competition.

Experience Matters

The global economy has been weakened by years of slow and uneven growth. Job creation and economic development have all but stalled while business leaders wait for consumer demand to rebound. But demand doesn’t just happen—it’s created by innovative individuals who can turn ideas into flourishing enterprises. Entrepreneurs are the real catalyst for a growing and thriving economy.*

Junior Achievement of Greater Washington is feeding the entrepreneurship ecosystem by creating a pipeline of inspired and prepared youth who are ready for life and work in the real world. That’s why our entrepreneurship programs have a unique focus on developing the workforce of the future. Our dynamic curriculum, hands-on experiences and authentic business community engagement help high school students develop the skills, mindset, relationships and core competencies to take control of their futures.

Why JA? We’re the leading nonprofit organization and premier school system advisor and implementor of equitable, rigorous, scaled and sequenced future-readiness curricula and experiences in work readiness, financial literacy and entrepreneurship. JA infuses business connectivity into all aspects of learning to deepen students’ understanding and sustain engagement. There’s a reason JA Alumni are 2 ½ times more likely to start a business than the general population.

Empowering Students. Developing the Workforce of the Future.

Embedded in all JA programs are six crucial competencies for success in the changing global economy:

- Creativity and Innovation
- Cultural Agility
- Self-direction
- Effective Collaboration
- Engaging Communication
- Critical and Analytical Thinking

Committed business leaders play key roles throughout each program, dedicating hours of their time and expertise to counsel, encourage and create meaningful relationships with each student. Not only do the programs empower and transform students, they establish a pipeline of inspired and prepared individuals for our business community.

*Gallup. “Entrepreneurship.”
Changing the Game for Area Youth

Students return year after year for the increasingly rigorous experience that helps them develop résumé-worthy skills and the confidence that comes from proficiency in:

- Leadership and Team Building
- Public Speaking and Written Communications
- Planning and Project Management
- Conflict Resolution
- Networking
- Product Ideation
- Market Research
- Business Finance
- Supply Chain and Logistics
- Marketing and Sales

showcasing the success of their venture, polish their public speaking skills, and develop a multimedia presentation as they advance to compete with other student companies for the national title of JA Company of the Year.

JA Business Week

This week-long, summer “startup boot camp” is a fun and rigorous program held at a local university. High school students are challenged to design ready-to-launch, sociallyconscious businesses, leveraging the support of a real-world company partner. The week culminates in a shark tank-style pitch to a panel of esteemed business leaders.

Robust content, mini-seminars and team building activities, combined with an immersive environment that is supported by hundreds of Company Advisors, business leaders and trained volunteer mentors, provides a practice run for real life.

You Know What it Takes

Every day you work hard to succeed. To contribute. To give back. You know what matters and you know what it takes. Perseverance. Resiliency. Experience. JA of Greater Washington offers these same lessons to each and every student in our area.

You know what matters. Today’s youth are the future. Let’s help them be ready for every challenge and every opportunity.

Junior Achievement of Greater Washington

Junior Achievement of Greater Washington is a non-profit organization that is changing the game for our region’s youth with relevant experiential education in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. We bring together school systems, business leaders and trained volunteer mentors to provide equal access to the tools, people and experiences all youth need to be 100% prepared for real life in the real world. That means students gain what matters most: control over their own lives, futures and careers.

JA. Know What Matters.