



**NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release**

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From right to left: Dino Robusto, Executive Vice President, The Chubb Corporation; Catherine Milone, President, Junior Achievement of New Jersey; Ayanna Curry, Leap Academy University Charter School, Camden; Kenya Bullock, Trenton Central High School, Trenton; Tyrone Harmon, Asbury Park High School, Asbury Park; Stephanie Tu, Franklin High School, Franklin Township; Shivam Patel, Franklin High School, Franklin Township; and Pamela Craig, Accenture (Retired)

Junior Achievement of New Jersey Celebrates First Ever Scholarship Winners at Annual Board Meeting

August 11, 2015, Princeton, NJ – Junior Achievement of New Jersey (JANJ) announced its five High School Heroes scholarship winners on Thursday, July 30, 2015 at their Annual Board Meeting.

During the 2014-2015 school year, 2,302 High School Heroes taught in 1,331 classrooms reaching a total of 25,017 elementary school children, which is nearly half of JANJ's total student reach.

"Bringing all of the board and staff together at the Annual JANJ Board Meeting to connect, network and information share around our past successes culminating with our scholarship winner's inspirational remarks and success stories was a great way to kick our next fiscal year into full speed," said Catherine Milone, JANJ president.

Board members, staff, volunteers and other distinguished guests celebrated Kenya Bullock, Ayanna Curry, Tyrone Harmon, Shivam Patel, and Stephanie Tu for their outstanding commitment to service learning through JANJ's High School Heroes Initiative.

"My experience in JA has been so much more than a day outside the classroom," said Shivam Patel, Rutgers University '19 (Franklin Township).

These students earned their scholarships by exemplifying the importance of education and giving back to their local community. By serving as role models, they helped to empower young people to own their economic success and become future leaders, just as JANJ states as their purpose.

"I truly would not be in the position that I am in if it were not for Junior Achievement," said Ayanna Curry, Rowan University '19 (Camden).

JANJ's High School Heroes program focuses on leading by example. It gives high school students the opportunity to serve as volunteer role models with Junior Achievement at local elementary schools. The youngsters, too, develop their own skills in leadership. They are taught various subjects from business, economics and entrepreneurship to the value of a dollar and the importance of savings. Junior Achievement is a no cost solution to the schools and families by providing all materials, lessons and training.

“One of the most important concepts I have discovered through Junior Achievement is that, the more educated I become the more likely it will be that I could improve this nation,” said Tyrone Harmon, Hofstra University ‘19 (Asbury Park).

In the elementary school classrooms, the high school students teach their younger peers activity-based financial literacy and work readiness skills. In teaching these lessons, the High School Heroes extract their knowledge from their avid studying of JA curriculum. They have been extensively trained by JANJ professionals, as well as given further training and coaching from their educators.

“Junior Achievement has changed my life by giving me tools that apply to everyday situations,” said Kenya Bullock, Dickinson College ‘19 (Trenton).

The program is a memorable community service project for the high school students who volunteer their time as role models. In the classroom, they co-teach with other High School Heroes or corporate volunteers, building their collaboration and team building skills. While serving as Heroes, these students build their own confidence, communication, presentation, leadership and employability skills, proving High School Heroes as a beneficial program for all who are involved.

"The High School Heroes program has given me the chance to help others while also improving myself," said Stephanie Tu, Rutgers University '19 (Franklin Township).

About Junior Achievement of New Jersey

Junior Achievement of New Jersey (JANJ) is 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 programs are delivered by corporate and community volunteers. They provide relevant, hands-on experiences that give students from kindergarten through high school knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. JANJ reached more than 57,000 students across the state during the 2014-2015 school year. For more information visit us at www.janj.org. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and like us on [Facebook](#).