

News Release

For Immediate Release:

June 1, 2018

Contact: Kim McGrigg
Director of Communication
Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain
303-260-6295
KMcGrigg@JAColorado.org
[@JARockyMountain](https://www.instagram.com/JARockyMountain)

RESEARCH REVEALS BOYS' INTEREST IN STEM CAREERS DECLINING; GIRLS' INTEREST UNCHANGED

Year two of Junior Achievement & EY survey of 13-17-year olds shows how teens' career ambitions, educational priorities and economic outlook have significantly shifted in one year

DENVER – New 2018 research conducted on behalf of Junior Achievement and Ernst & Young LLP (EY) illustrates how in just one year after first being surveyed, high school age teens' career ambitions have shifted further away from careers in STEM and the arts and how more 13-17-year-old students are expecting to take out loans to help pay for college.

- In a significant drop, 24% of boys want a STEM career, down from 36% in 2017; girls' interest remains unchanged at 11%, year-over-year.
- Among girls and boys, desires for careers in the arts dropped from 18% to 13%.
- The percentage of teens expecting to take out a student loan increased from 33% to 45%.

Career choices that have risen in popularity include the medical and dental fields, as well as public service, illustrating that what kids find most appealing about their dream job is that they are "good at it" and can help people.

- Careers in medical and dental fields increased from 15% to 19%, with girls far more likely to choose this path.
- Interest in careers in public service increased from 7% to 10% overall.
- Starting one's own business (8%) and careers in business (7%) remained the same.

According to kids, their parents still hold the top spot in terms of who or what influences their choice of dream job. Parents' influence, in fact, increased from 19% to 28% since last year. Societal influences such as social media declined from 15% to 8%. Other sources of inspiration include teachers, courses, volunteering and extra-curricular activities.

"Teens today report they are leaning toward jobs that highlight their capabilities, as well as careers that offer altruistic outcomes," said Robin Wise, president and CEO of Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain. "As parents, educators, mentors and counselors, we need to continue to give students the skills to become more proficient in the areas in which they need to advance and grow, as well as show them how all types of careers provide opportunities to benefit society. JA volunteers, who come from all fields, help students make these types of

connections about what they are learning in school and what they need and want to succeed at work and life.”

The survey data implies that teens today are viewing the economy as improving. One year ago when this same Junior Achievement-EY survey was conducted, the percentage of teens who were changing career plans based on the economy was 52%. Today, that number has decreased to just 40%. Fewer teens also plan to get a job and go to school at the same time – 22% this year vs. 30% in 2017. However, some data contradicts teens’ awareness of economic conditions.

- The number of teens who have taken a financial readiness class decreased from 33% to 28%.
- 81% of teens would take a work/financial readiness class if it was offered to them.
- The percentage of teens that have a bank account decreased to 52% from 59%.
- 43% of teens expect their parents to pay for college, up from 32% in 2017.

“With teens beginning to join the workforce and looking ahead to future careers, the timing is right to work with them to build and strengthen financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work readiness skills,” said Gary Kozlowski, Partner, Ernst & Young LLP, who leads a network of EY leaders serving on more than 40 local JA boards across the US, Canada and the Caribbean. “I was surprised to see a reduced interest in STEM careers, which are taking on larger and more important roles in the transformative age in which we are living. Together, EY member firms and JA can team to help strengthen these critical skills for the workforce of tomorrow.”

Other Data Points

- 88% of 13-17-year-olds know what kind of job they want after graduation.
- The two skills kids would like to learn most to prepare for their dream jobs include technology and relationship building.

Methodology

This report presents the findings of ORC International’s Youth CARAVAN survey conducted among a sample of 1,000 13-17-year olds. This survey was live from February 27 to March 6, 2018.

Respondents for this survey are selected from among those who have volunteered to participate in online surveys and polls. Because the sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to multiple sources of error, including, but not limited to sampling error, coverage error, error associated with nonresponse, error associated with question wording and response options.

About Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain

Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain is part of the world’s largest organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. Through a dedicated volunteer network, Junior Achievement provides K-12 programs for students, which focus on three key content areas: work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. This year, Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain will provide programs to more than 115,000 students in schools throughout Metro Denver, Northern Colorado and Southern Wyoming. These programs are always free to schools thanks to 6,000 volunteers and the generous support of donors. For more information, visit www.JAColorado.org.

About EY

EY is a global leader in assurance, tax, transaction and advisory services. The insights and quality services we deliver help build trust and confidence in the capital markets and in economies the world over. We develop outstanding leaders who team to deliver on our promises to all of our stakeholders. In so doing, we play a critical role in building a better working world for our people, for our clients and for our communities.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. For more information about our organization, please visit ey.com.

#