



**PRESS RELEASE:** For Immediate Release

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**Together, Junior Achievement and Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming Expand Life Skills Programming for Youth**

**CASPER (August 5, 2019)** — Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain, Inc. (JA) presented the JA Bronze Award to Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming to recognize their key partnership in implementing JA's financial education programs. This collaboration helped JA serve 1,353 students in Wyoming during the 2018-2019 school year.

JA is a nonprofit organization that empowers and prepares young people to succeed in a global economy by providing hands-on learning activities in three areas: financial literacy, entrepreneurship and workforce development. JA equips BGCCW staff with the training and curricula to deliver real-world skills to elementary, middle and high school students at ten sites in three counties. JA is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Extensive third-party evaluations demonstrate that JA is closing the achievement gap in financial education. Students are showing strong gains in personal financial literacy outcomes thanks to JA programs. Additionally, students from less advantaged backgrounds are making larger gains in their financial knowledge, many times meeting or exceeding their more advantaged peers.

Though JA lessons are generally taught in classrooms, BGCCW allows for extended learning opportunities through afterschool and summer programming. Because of JA's successful outcomes with BGCCW youth, JA used BGCCW's afterschool model as a template to collaborate with dozens of other afterschool programs, including the Wyoming Afterschool Alliance.

"We are constantly on the lookout for new and innovative ways to engage youth," says Elizabeth Winn, JA-Rocky Mountain District Director for Northern Colorado and Wyoming. "Outside-the-box thinking is a necessity to meet our program demand. This is especially true for rural areas. This growth has been possible because of the way we've tailored our programs to meet the community's needs."

BGCCW Vice President of Operations Jessica Baxter says, "JA programming has allowed us to reach thousands of young people with the messages of financial wellness and civic responsibility, connecting youth with local businesses and caring adults who share in the mission of impacting their future. We are incredibly grateful for the support and partnership of JA as we inspire youth to reach their full potential."

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**About Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain, Inc.**

Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain, Inc. 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 school year, Junior Achievement is celebrating its 100th anniversary of serving students across the world. Junior Achievement-Rocky Mountain, Inc. provided programs to 1,350 students throughout Wyoming during the 2018-2019 school year. These programs are always free to schools and organizations thanks to 57 volunteers and the generous support of donors. For more information, visit [www.JAColorado.org](http://www.JAColorado.org).



**About Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming:** The Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Wyoming (BGCCW) provides after school programming to foster positive youth development, build trusting relationships with adults and peers, and receive academic support through enrichment and homework help, and opportunities to discover and cultivate interests. BGCCW's ten sites in Casper, Buffalo, Dubois and Glenrock open the door to a safe, inviting environment for kids who need us most. BGCCW serves children in kindergarten through high school in an atmosphere in which all children believe they can succeed empowering them to achieve three priority outcomes: academic success, good character and citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. For more information, visit [www.bgccw.org](http://www.bgccw.org).