



JA Business Week Has Lasting Impact on JA Alumnus

Nick Quinlan, senior partner at Major League Hacking, describes JA Business Week as “something key to my young adult experience.”

From 2007 to 2010, Nick Quinlan attended JA Business Week, where he excelled at activities like the Spoonbender Challenge and Mocktails. As Nick shared, “I went on to use the lessons learned from these JA Business Week challenges in business school and in my career.”

[Read more >>](#)

Get Involved

Donate to JA



Volunteer at JA Finance Park



Young people are headed back to school this month, and JA already has more than 500 students signed up to experience JA Finance Park, presented by Transamerica, during the first week it opens in September. Please join us as a volunteer, and help young people gain the budget management skills they need to succeed in the future.

[Learn more >>](#)

Western Union Support Leads to Successful Student Outcomes



Exploring career options, students benefit from the work readiness focus of JA Personal Success

JA Personal Success, presented by Western Union, is a standout JA program that teaches young people the personal success skills that will help them find and keep jobs in their areas of interest.

The program was launched by JA and Western Union in 2017 to provide skills training and workforce preparation for Denver-area high schoolers.

“We believe that education is critical to improving job placement, increasing earning potential and driving economic opportunity,” said Carrie Damon, Western Union vice president and JA board member.

“JA Personal Success is a perfect partnership for Western Union because it allows us to work directly with high school students to help prepare them for the job market.” [Read more >>](#)



Save the Date

JA and the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce will host the [30th Annual Colorado Business Hall of Fame](#) next year. The 2019 laureates will be inducted on Thursday, Jan. 31, 2019, at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center.

JA Welcomes New Faces



Cliff Deffke, Director of Finance and HR

Cliff Deffke

Cliff joined the JA-Rocky Mountain team as Director of Finance and HR in April. Cliff has an extensive background in finance, having served in several key finance roles for both non-profit and for-profit organizations, including DeVry University and Crown Point Academy. He also has experience in HR. Cliff received his MBA from the University of Colorado and is a member of the Institute of Internal Auditors. An avid baseball fan and coach, Cliff has received two U.S. presidential volunteer commendations for his work coaching Little League Baseball.



Mike MacDonnell, Chief Learning Officer

Mike MacDonnell

Mike will join JA-Rocky Mountain in August as the organization’s Chief Learning Officer. Mike brings 28 years of education experience as a teacher, coach, dean, assistant principal and principal/CTE director in Adams 12 and Jefferson counties. He also brings experience as a small business owner. Mike has been recognized for his work in education with awards such as Administrator of the Year and the Friends of DECA Award, and he was a nominee for the Governor’s Award for Excellence in Education.

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