

EVP Message: Witnessing Opportunity and Liberation Emerge

The culture of JA is a decidedly mission-driven one, and I am proud to work with so many dedicated, passionate professionals. This month, in lieu of a president's message, I've asked Kristi Shaffer to share the incredible story that drives her passion for free enterprise. [Read Kristi's story about implementing JA programs in the Czech Republic](#). -Robin

Get Involved



Have the Need for Speed?

Here's your chance to race a tricked-out trike all while supporting JA programs! Join in the fun of Schrader Oil Company's Grand Prix for JA on Aug. 19. Join us for a day of fun and competition, including music, food and local Fort Collins brews. [Learn more>>](#)

JA Golf Classic

The JA Golf Classic, presented by RE/MAX, LLC, was held on June 26 at the Sanctuary Golf Course. This premier event included a pre-tournament dinner and silent auction at Del Frisco's Double Eagle Steak House. Participants and sponsors, including auction sponsor, Inspirato, and tournament sponsor, Comcast Technology Solutions, helped raise more than \$375,000 to support vital JA programs.

JA Charity Ascent

Join Transworld Business Advisors of Denver for the third annual JA Charity Ascent 14er hike on Aug. 18. Enjoy an early morning hike up Mount Bierstadt, followed by a post-hike party, all to support financial literacy and entrepreneurship education. [Learn more>>](#)

Cordillera Golf Experience

JA has been selected as the Charity Partner for the Colorado Land Rover Retailers Cordillera Golf Experience. The event is Colorado's ultimate golf and leisure weekend set against the world-class backdrop of the Club at Cordillera in the Vail Valley on Sept. 16 and 17. [Learn more>>](#)

Join JA's Young Professionals Group



JA Engage has several great opportunities for young professionals to get involved. [Learn more>>](#)

Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for the 29th Annual Colorado Business Hall of Fame. The 2018 laureates will be inducted on Thursday, Jan. 25, at the Hyatt Regency Denver at Colorado Convention Center. The event is underwritten by UMB Bank.



JA Heritage Society

If you choose to include JA-Rocky Mountain in your estate plans, please [let us know](#). We value the opportunity to express our gratitude through our JA Heritage Society. [Learn more>>](#)

JA Business Week Students Work on Real Projects for Real Companies

From June 11 to 16, nearly 200 Colorado high school students attended JA Business Week, presented by Arrow Electronics, Inc., at Johnson & Wales University in Denver. These 9th through 12th grade students are part of a growing group of young innovators who are anxious to apply what they've learned in the classroom to the business world.

JA Business Week is a unique project-based program that focuses on practical application and real-world problem solving. In addition to interactive workshops on marketing, business ethics and budgeting, the week culminates in a "Shark Tank"-style competition. Students attending JA Business Week for the first time gained first-hand experience in teams to develop marketing and business concepts for Otter Products, a Colorado-based global innovator of protective solutions for mobile technology. Returning students helped Arrow Electronics build a strategy to keep even more electronic waste out of landfills by recycling and repurposing electronic components. For veteran JA Business Week students, joining the JA Venture Academy enabled them to dive deeply into what it takes to start their own business right now.

JA Business Week also gives students the opportunity to improve their emotional intelligence. By networking with successful entrepreneurs and students from across Colorado, JA Business Week students explore leadership concepts, learn to work collaboratively and build confidence.

[View JA Business Week photo gallery>>](#)

Meet the 2017 JA Inspiration Scholars

This year's JA Inspiration Scholarship recipients were honored at a reception at the Denver Country Club on June 22. [Read more about these outstanding students>>](#)

The Students Keep Me Coming Back to JA Business Week

by Joe Acker, JA Business Week Company Advisor

Joe Acker (left), with his 2017 student company, has volunteered for JA Business Week for 12 years

Several years ago, I received an email regarding the need for judges at a Junior Achievement summer competition. Without really knowing what it was, I decided to show up and volunteer. I remember sitting there watching the students' presentations about bicycles and reading their business plans. When I met with the kids afterwards and shared my thoughts from a judge's standpoint, I knew that the following year I wanted to spend the entire week on campus working with students.

That first year as a company advisor was a great experience that I will never forget. I was so tired following the week, I could not imagine going back. On top of that, I could not really envision spending one vacation week a year volunteering to mentor teenagers. More than 10 years later, I'm shocked by how long I have participated in this program!

I keep coming back because of the students. Their interest, curiosity and drive are inspiring. [Read more >>](#)

Western Union Empowers Communities Through Financial Literacy

Western Union staffers team up to teach JA in a Day at Fulton Elementary School in Aurora

Repeatedly, Western Union employees demonstrate their steadfast commitment to helping young people in the Denver Metro community – and around the world – understand and embrace financial literacy. During the 2016/17 school year, 48 Western Union employees volunteered in classrooms at Fulton Elementary School in Aurora; Teastero Elementary School in Denver; and Cherokee Trail Elementary School and Rock Canyon High School in Douglas County. [Read more>>](#)

JA Bowl-A-Thon

We are ending the 2016/17 [JA Bowl-A-Thon](#) season strong! Metro Denver companies that hit the lanes in June include AMG, Aramark, Bank of America, CoBiz Financial, DaVita, Eide Bailly, Flood & Peterson, Grand Hyatt Denver, Grant Thornton, Inspirato, JA Engage, Molson Coors, Staples, Teletech, and Western Paper. Northern Colorado companies that bowled for JA in June include EKS&H, FirstBank, Kohl's, and Otter Products.

The JA Bowl-A-Thon will be back in August starting with our [Steamboat Springs event on August 17](#), presented by the Young Professionals Network.

Metro Denver companies can [contact Liz Johnson](#) to get involved with the JA Bowl-A-Thon. In Northern Colorado, [contact Elizabeth Winn](#). Companies in Steamboat Springs and the Vail Valley should [contact Sally Messinger](#).

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