

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Susan Magnotta 570.650.3071 - susan.magnotta@ja.org

Junior Achievement NEPA Pilots JA Company Insight Program with Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies

WILKES-BARRE, PA – Junior Achievement (JA) of Northeast Pennsylvania announces the launch of a new pilot program, called JA Company Insight, in collaboration with Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies (“GUARD”), Wilkes-Barre, to provide students in Wilkes-Barre Area’s Business Academy a better understanding of the types of jobs available in the insurance industry and the requirements for various positions at GUARD.

“Such collaborations between high schools and local companies not only enable students to learn about different career opportunities, but also benefit the companies looking to fill essential positions with local applicants,” said Susan Magnotta, President of Junior Achievement of NEPA. “It’s a win-win situation for the students and the companies to connect and learn about what each can offer the other. We are excited to pilot JA Company Insight and look forward to collaborating with additional schools and companies.”

On November 29th, students visited GUARD for a job fair where they had the opportunity to interact with representatives from many different departments and learn about the career opportunities available to both high school and college graduates.

In preparation, GUARD employees have been working with students in the classroom, utilizing JA curriculum, to help students work on resumes and polish interview and presentation skills through a six week Junior Achievement course.

JA Company Insight will culminate with students returning to GUARD in the spring to experience a job shadow day with employees in a department in their area of interest.

“Students participating in the program will shadow employees in various GUARD departments to obtain a feel for the day-to-day operations of a potential future career,” said Hal Gabriel, Administrator of the Business Academy and Special Programs at Wilkes-Barre Area. “They will also learn about some of the incentive programs GUARD offers, including internships, hiring and training opportunities, and tuition reimbursement benefits,” added Carl Witkowski, Chief Operating Officer at GUARD.

The mission of the Wilkes-Barre Area Business Academy is to provide students with an integrated program of academic subjects and competitive business practices, preparing them for post secondary education or entering the workforce with competitive business skills. This immersive program includes hands-on learning experiences focused on community engagement and building business relationships.

Junior Achievement provides classroom programs on financial literacy, career readiness, and entrepreneurship; a middle-school YES! (Your Economic Success) program; and a JA Inspire Career Discovery event in the spring for high school students to explore numerous career options. JA continues to expand its programs to further inspire students toward a pathway for future success.

Berkshire Hathaway GUARD Insurance Companies is an Equal Opportunity Employer that offers a collaborative company culture with outstanding benefits and competitive compensation. The organization is always seeking talented and diverse individuals to join its team and establish a rewarding career.

About Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement is the nation's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their futures, and make smart academic and economic choices. JA's programs in the core content areas of work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy ignite the spark in young people to experience and realize the opportunities and reality of work and life in the 21st century. Nationally, Junior Achievement reaches more than 4.8 million students per year.

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Photo from Left to Right

Junior Achievement of NEPA:

Ariah Saeed, Relationship Marketing Assistant

Terri Yench, VP of Administrative Operations

Brandy Lewis, Chief Operating Officer

Susan Magnotta, President

Wilkes-Barre Area High School:

Hal Gabriel, Administrator of the Business Academy and Special Programs

GUARD:

Carl Witkowski, Chief Operating Officer

Jackie Kendzor, AVP of Human Resources

Tesha Rushton, Training & Development Supervisor

Krissy Bryk, Talent Acquisition Supervisor