



Junior Achievement®

Working To Build Students' Job Skills

(NAPSA)—Climbing the corporate ladder takes time—but two new programs may help many of today's students skip a few rungs.

One gives kids experience making business decisions and seeing firsthand how those choices impact a company's future. The other gives students an inside glimpse of the working world, helping them better understand the day-to-day life of the workplace. Both can have an impact that lasts for years to come. Here's a closer look:

CEO For A Day

More than 42,000 children acted as virtual CEOs last year through the JA Titan program, run by JA Worldwide (Junior Achievement). They learned to set prices, production levels and capital investment—and how to allocate resources for marketing and research & development. Thousands of children will participate again this year, and the valuable teamwork and decision-making skills they learn can be applied to the workplace whether they end up running their own company or not.

Each year, a series of nationwide JA Titan competitions is held, simulating a business cycle of five to 20 business quarters. Students make decisions, resulting in a score called a performance index. The team with the highest performance index wins the competition.

Seeing Is Believing

A program called JA Job Shadow brings students into the workplace through on-site career mentoring provided by businesses in the community. Job Shadow



Two unique programs let children experience the work world for themselves.

gives students real-world experience as a member of the workforce and helps teach “soft skills” such as teamwork, leadership and problem solving, which complement what they learn in classrooms. Seventy thousand participants visited local businesses last year alone.

A Helping Hand

Both programs are funded in part by The Best Buy Children's Foundation, which awarded a grant in excess of \$640,000 to JA Worldwide, bringing its total support of the organization to more than \$4 million since 2000.

Money has gone to help the group offer programs to help students in grades K-12 devise and adhere to a budget, learn about the cost of credit, and become informed consumers who make smart choices. The group is the world's largest organization dedicated to educating young people about work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy.

For more information, visit www.ja.org.