

Lou MacEachern Fund Supports Junior Achievement

For the 2025-2026 school year, Junior Achievement (JA) Southern Alberta received support from the Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown to deliver transformative entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and career readiness programming to local youth. The Rotary Club's contribution helped strengthen the impact of several key JA Southern Alberta's initiatives, including the Company Program, Economics for Success, and the Celebration of Achievement.



Through the Company Program, 296 students gained hands-on experience in entrepreneurship by creating, developing, and successfully operating 14 student-led companies. Participants developed critical skills in business planning, product development, marketing, financial management, teamwork, and leadership while navigating real-world market dynamics.

The Company Program culminated at the Celebration of Achievement event on April 11, 2026, where student accomplishments were recognized and \$9,000 in post-secondary scholarships were awarded. The impact of these experiences is reflected in student feedback: *"I am more likely to have success in business. I am now more confident in my communication, speech, and leadership skills,"* shared a 2025-2026 Company Program student, echoing the experiences of many of their peers.



The Rotary Club's investment directly contributed to creating meaningful opportunities for young people to build confidence, strengthen financial literacy skills, and develop the entrepreneurial mindset needed to succeed in an evolving economy. Together, we are helping equip the next generation of innovators, business leaders, and community builders across Southern Alberta. Thank you Rotary Club of Calgary Downtown!

Kendall Showers, ***Junior Achievement Southern Alberta***