

Rotary Club of Canton, Ohio
Submission for
Robert Manchester
Vocational Avenue of Service Award
2016 – 17

Rotary Club of Canton
and
Junior Achievement

“Career Connections” Project



Rotary Club of Canton & Junior Achievement “Career Connections” Project

Project Overview:

The Rotary Club of Canton, Ohio, has partnered with Junior Achievement of East Central Ohio to offer mentoring opportunities to our members, who present Junior Achievement programs in our local schools, particularly in the Canton City School District. Our Canton Rotarians provide their business or professional expertise to the students, as well as their personal experience, so students can connect both the JA and school curricula to the real world of jobs and business.

Junior Achievement is a non-profit organization that provides Financial Literacy, Work Readiness, and Entrepreneurship programs for students K – 12 in the local schools, all at no cost to the schools or students. All JA programs are presented by volunteers from the business and professional community.

These JA Career Connections programs in the Canton City Schools are part of the district’s “Success Classes”, a sequential series of JA programs starting in 2nd grade, continuing in 5th grade, then into middle and high school levels, ultimately preparing the Canton City School students for their next steps after high school graduation.

Project Details:

During the 2016 – 17 school year, Canton Rotarians volunteered for several Junior Achievement programs:

- 8/30/17: As part of JA’s “Career Connections” series for the ‘Success Classes’ in the Canton City Schools, Canton Rotarians Tom Schervish, Ron Becker, Jim Molnar, Bruce Schorsten, Tena Wilson, and Rick Taylor presented the ‘JA Hire Me!’ program to 489 McKinley High School 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students. In this program, the Rotarians presented a Power Point dealing with employer expectations for their employees, both before and after being hired. The students were advised on life-style choices to

make in high school to help ensure their future employability. The Rotarians also shared their personal work and life experiences with students and what their expectations are for employees in their businesses or professions. These Rotarians also were able to describe to the students specific information on job opportunities, as well as job requirements, in their particular industries. Canton Rotarian Tena Wilson, Executive Director of the Stark County Library, provided six students with an opportunity to interview for a position at the library. Each Rotarian volunteered approximately 2 hours of time for this mentorship.

- 9/16/17: Canton Rotarians Amanda Tietze, Bob Matthews, and Bruce Hale presented the 'JA Our Community' program to a class of 26 - 2nd graders at Allen Elementary School as part of JAECO's "Take Your Work to School" Day. This program teaches these young people what a community is, about some of the businesses in a community, what it means to work a job to get paid (they are paid paper JA 'money' for 'making' paper donuts at the Sweet O Donut Factory), how government workers get paid (through taxes, of course – students have to give back part of their JA dollars), how a community makes decisions by voting, and how money moves around a community. These Rotarians again were able to provide their personal experiences to illustrate the JA lessons they were presenting. This program lasted approximately 2 hours.
- 1/31/17: Canton Rotarians Bill Maddox, Mark Clendenin, Bruce Schorsten, and Rick Taylor mentored juniors at McKinley High School by conducting one-on-one 'professional conversations' with these students, as part of the JA "Career Connections" program: basically precursors to mock interviews. Many of these students have not had a face-to-face conversation with a business or professional person, so the McKinley teachers asked for this program to be initiated. Students were critiqued on their speaking ability, eye contact, posture, hand shake, etc., by the Canton Rotarians. A later program for these students in the Success Classes will involve actual mock interviews with business and professional mentors. Each Rotarian volunteered approximately 2 hours for this project.

Other Club Tie-ins:

- 1) Besides the volunteer time that Canton Rotarians provided to Junior Achievement for mentoring, the Board of Directors also authorized a \$1500.00 donation to support JA programs.
- 2) On Saturday March 4, 2017, a team of four Canton Rotarians and one Rotarian spouse participated in the JAECO Bowl-A-Thon, raising an additional \$915.00 to support JA programs.

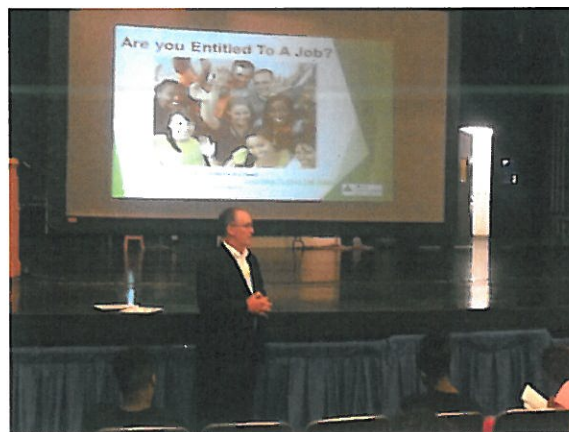
Photos



JA Hire Me - 8/30/16: Bruce Schorsten



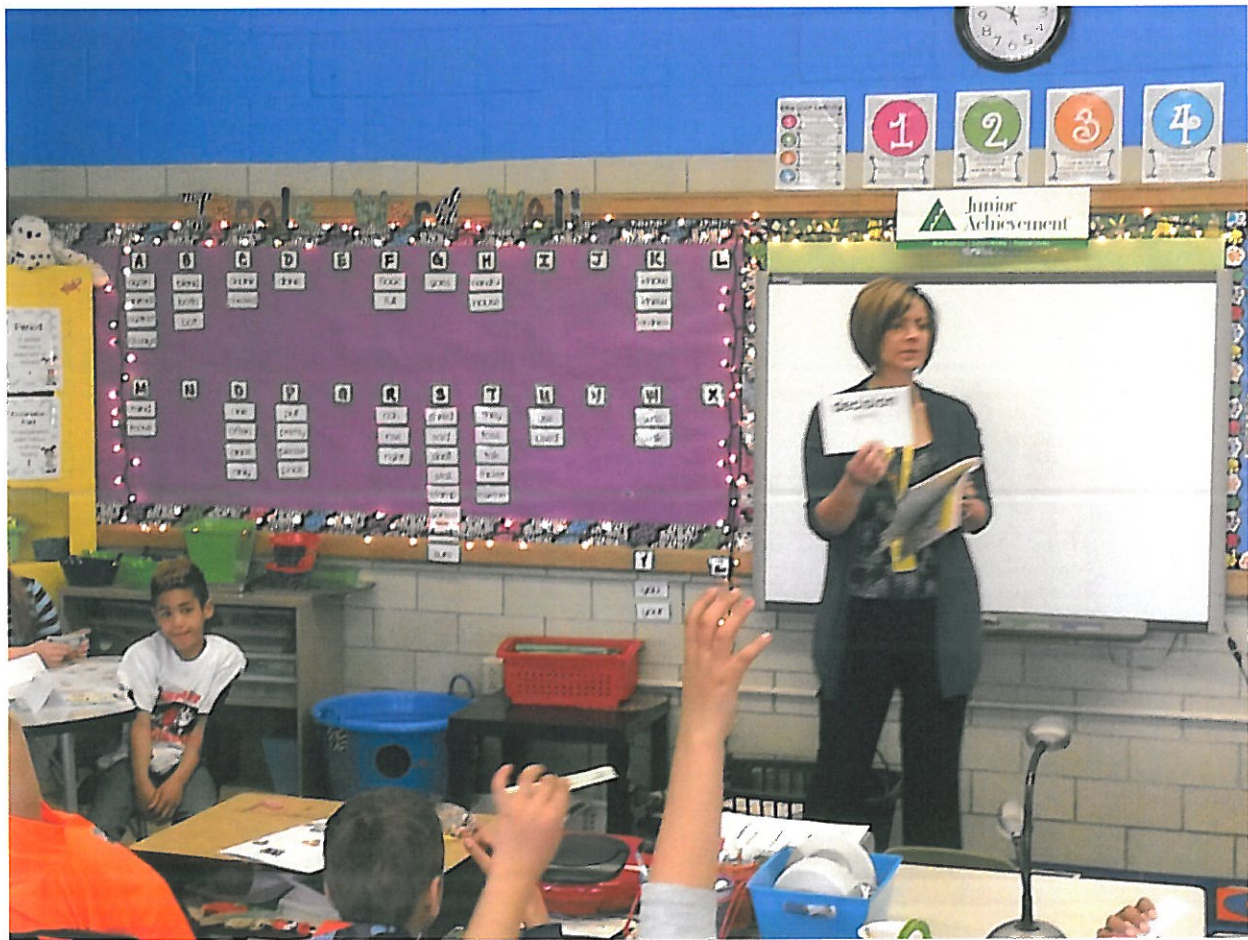
JA Hire Me – 8/30/16: Tom Schervish



JA Hire Me – 8/30/16: Ron Becker



JA Hire Me – 8/30/16: Jim Molnar



JA Our Community – 9/16/17: Amanda Tietze



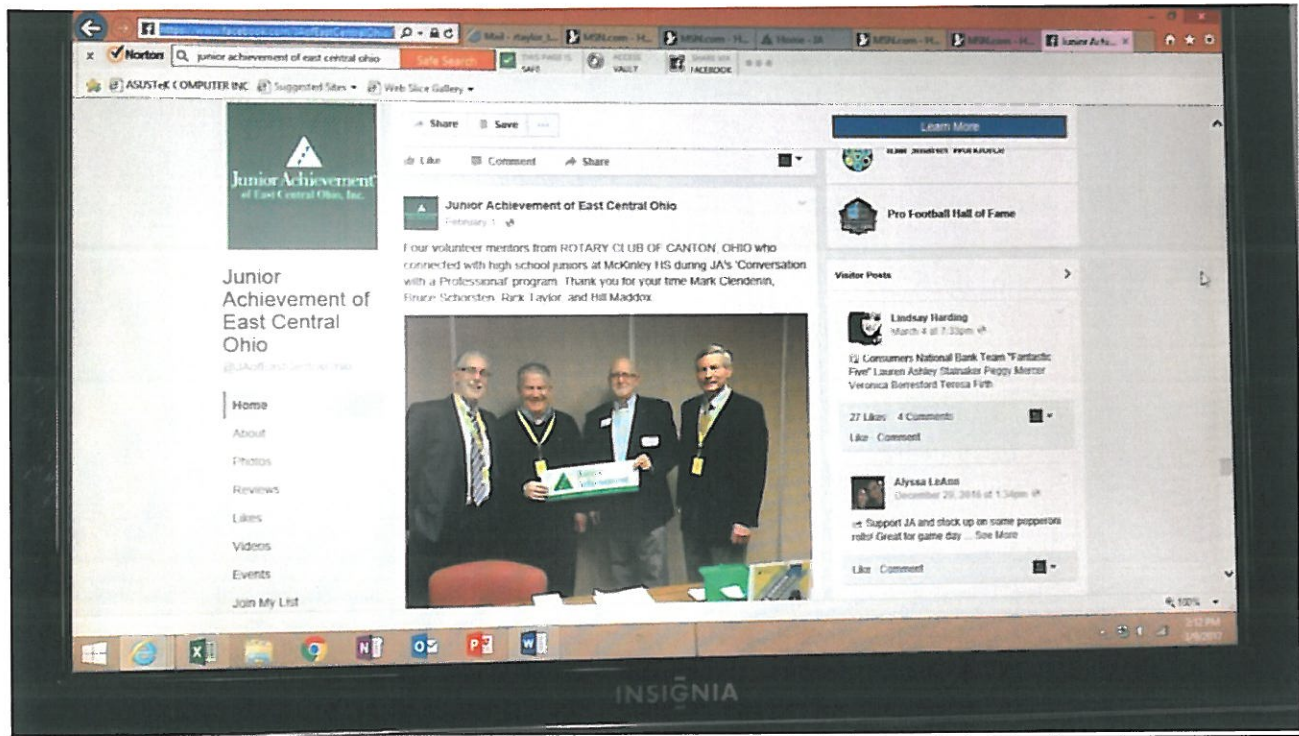
JA Career Connections: Professional Conversations 1/31/17

(l to r: Mark Clendenin, Bruce Schorsten, Rick Taylor, and Bill Maddox)



JA Bowl-A-Thon – 3/4/17: Canton Rotarians Rick Taylor, Shawn Dougherty and Drew Pelger w/Rotarians from North Canton and Jackson Township

Social Media Posts

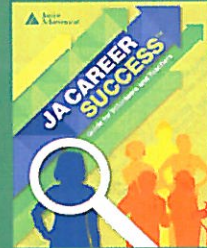


Screenshot of JA of East Central Ohio Facebook Post

NOTE: the next page shows some results of the Junior Achievement Career Success classes at McKinley High School from the 2015 - 16 school year; current year results are not yet tabulated. This will give some indication of the impact that this program and the Canton Rotarians who volunteer to participate in it have on the students that they mentor there:

**JA Career Success
McKinley High School
Canton City Schools
12th Grade Results
2015-2016**

**Equips Students With
21st Century Skills & Job
Seeking Tools Required to
Earn & Keep a Job In High-
Growth Career Industries**



JA students in this program had a **10%** knowledge gain about employability skills.

“ I learned I am not entitled to anything after college or high school. ”

- McKinley HS Student




“ The most important thing I learned is that my communication skills can really help me in the future. ”

- McKinley HS Student



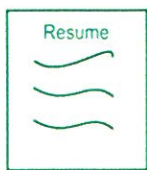
PRE 75%
POST 81%

Students have researched what they need to do in HS to prepare for their future career choice.




PRE 41%
POST 91%

Students have a resume.



PRE 19%
POST 81%

Students are worried they do not have the skills to succeed in the workplace.



PRE 79%
POST 94%

Students understand their choices now about drug use, social media posts & tattoos can affect future employability.

