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## Junior Achievement, Local Businesses Open Doors To the International World of Business at Naylor Middle School

InsideArizonaBusiness.com Report

11/12/2007 12:18:53 PM

**Entrepreneurship, innovation, and global economy may sound like topics in a college-level university course, but for sixth, seventh and eighth graders at Naylor Middle School, they're simply a part of the Junior Achievement lessons taught weekly by local business volunteers.**

### Press Release

TUCSON- During the months of November and December, nearly 20 business volunteers like Diane Kephart, a member of the Southeast Business Alliance, will teach basic business concepts to 460 sixth, seventh and eighth grade students at Naylor Middle School. Using Junior Achievement curricula, the volunteers will teach six weekly lessons, covering topics ranging from the global economy to personal finance and career options.

"You can see the spark in their eyes," said Kephart of students' reactions in the six classes she has volunteered to teach. "At the end of the program I expect to see these students inspired, with a firm understanding of free enterprise and the possibility of even owning their own business one day."

Kephart is one of 300 business volunteers currently teaching Junior Achievement at 14 schools in five local school districts. This year Junior Achievement will reach 7,300 students, a 21 percent increase over last year. By 2009, the organization will serve more than 10,000 students annually.

JA's curriculum not only is in compliance with Arizona State school standards, "it taps into the knowledge and experience of our students and helps them develop a deeper understanding of how products and services move around the world," said Mary Ellen Ramplin, a Naylor teacher using the JA courses.

Her class just completed the supply and demand and scarcity modules, and she said it was a culturally eye-opening experience for the kids, stimulating their curiosity to learn more about how Americans are different and similar from residents in other countries and how that impacts products they make and purchase.

An 88-year-old, international organization, Junior Achievement has been part of the Tucson community for 50 years. During that time, the organization has undergone many changes, but, notes Executive Director Rita Weatherholt. "Two things have remained constant. First and foremost, JA will always be about the experience of bringing business people together with youth to share experiences and bring inspiration. Second, JA has had the good fortune to be backed by many of our community's top business leaders."

In the case of Naylor Middle School, Junior Achievement is sponsored by The Click Family Foundation. Jim Click is Junior Achievement's Advisory Board Chair, and is widely credited for the organization's current re-emergence in Tucson.

With great business backing, dedicated volunteers, and exciting, interactive business lessons from Junior Achievement, students at Naylor Middle School are being groomed for a brighter future, Kephart said, adding that "Naylor's new Principal, Mr. Calhoun, is committed to bringing the best possible public education to his students. The members of SEBA, along with other

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Do you think the  
November election  
results will help local  
economic development  
efforts?

Yes

No

volunteers I've spoken with, are thrilled to partner with Junior Achievement in a way that adds to that effort."

#### Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement is a volunteer-driven organization with a mission to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. Junior Achievement is the world's largest non-profit organization delivering economic education to youth. Today, 140 individual area operations reach approximately four million students in the United States, with more than 3.5 million students served by operations in 100 countries worldwide. For more information, contact JA locally at (520) 792-2000, or visit the Junior Achievement website at [www.jaaz.org](http://www.jaaz.org).

Source: Junior Achievement



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