

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Sept 24, 2019

## **Junior Achievement's JA JobSpark initiative helps local youth explore potential career paths**

*Annual event attracts thousands of students for a first-hand look at future in-demand careers in technology, manufacturing, healthcare, public service, financial services and more*

**INDIANAPOLIS** – By 2029, the Indianapolis region will need more than 100,000 qualified workers to fill job openings in key industries. Junior Achievement of Central Indiana (JA) kicks off its fourth annual JA JobSpark event at the Indiana State Fairgrounds' Champions and Blue Ribbon Pavilions on Sept 24, to help 8th graders in the Indianapolis area explore those careers through direct learning experiences with local organizations.

JA JobSpark is a two-day, hands-on career expo, culminating after weeks of JA curriculum taught in classrooms, from Sept 24 - 25. The event is expected to bring 10,700 students from 69 schools across Indianapolis to the Indiana State Fairgrounds. JA JobSpark aims to provide students with concrete ideas about what they may want to do after high school which increases their likelihood of staying in school and graduating.

"With the help of a supportive business community, we can get these students enthusiastic about some of the fastest-growing industries in the city," said President and CEO of JA of Central Indiana, Jennifer Burk. "By bringing these students face-to-face with their futures, we can motivate them to take the next steps to get there."

Students will interact with 1,200 volunteers representing approximately 150 Indy employers from Indiana's fastest-growing industry sectors. This year, the event will feature new hands-on experiences, including virtual classroom simulation, drone heat sensing and cybersecurity.

"By the time today's middle school students join the job market, more than 70% of all openings will require education beyond high school," said President and CEO of EmployIndy, Angela Carr Klitzsch. "JA JobSpark allows them to see, touch and learn about local industries in an engaging way that will impact their education and career choices moving forward."

Included in this year's event is the JA EduSpark Career Cluster Tour and Panel for middle and high school educators, sponsored by Roche Indianapolis. JA EduSpark connects educators with industry professionals to learn more about critical workforce needs and how to connect the curriculum being delivered in the classroom to the real world of work. With JA EduSpark Career Cluster Tour and Panel, educators have the opportunity to take hands-on tours of career experiences where they can try out the activities and network with business professionals in eight industry clusters.

*(more)*

Corporate, government and organizational leaders volunteer on committees throughout the year to help recruit, plan and organize JA JobSpark’s employer participants within a number of key sectors: advanced manufacturing, engineering and logistics; agriculture, food and natural resources; architecture, engineering and construction; business and finance; government, law and public service; health and life sciences; hospitality and tourism; and technology.

The schedule for the two-day program is as follows:

### **September 24**

- 9:30 a.m. – Doors open for students
- 1:30 p.m. – Doors close for students
- 2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. – JA EduSpark Career Cluster Tour and Panel, sponsored by Roche Indianapolis

Moderator: PJ McGrew, Executive Director, Governor’s Workforce Cabinet

Panelists include:

- Terra Doyle, Senior Director Talent Acquisition, Roche
- Mitch Denton, Vice President, Pepper Construction
- Nick Smarrelli, Chief Executive Officer, GadellNet
- Sascha Harrell, Director of Education & Workforce, Indiana Manufacturing

### **September 25**

- 9:00 a.m. – VIP Experience and Tour sponsored by IKORCC, networking with community, education and business leaders
- 9:30 a.m. – Doors open for students
- 9:30 a.m. – VIP Experience and Tour

Program speakers include:

- Jennifer Burk, President and CEO, Junior Achievement of Central Indiana
- Jerome Stanford, Senior Political Lead and Business Representative, Indiana Kentucky Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters (IKORCC)
- Angie Carr Klitzsch, CEO, EmployIndy
- Tiffany Benjamin, Senior Director, Corporate Social Responsibility and Global Health President, Eli Lilly and Company
- Aleesia Johnson, Superintendent, Indianapolis Public Schools
- 1:30 p.m. – Doors close for students

For more information about JA, visit [www.jaindy.org](http://www.jaindy.org). To learn more about JA JobSpark, visit [www.jajobspark.org](http://www.jajobspark.org). For more information about JA EduSpark visit: [www.jaeduspark.org](http://www.jaeduspark.org).

###

### **About Junior Achievement of Central Indiana**

Junior Achievement (JA) empowers young people to own their future success. Our volunteer-delivered K-12 programs foster career exploration, work readiness, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and philanthropy skills. JA's experiential learning inspires kids to dream big and reach their potential. Junior Achievement of Central Indiana helps young people connect with relevant learning and the importance of staying in school. JA sparks students to develop competitive skills and confidence.

**Media Contact:**

Kacy Wendling  
 Junior Achievement of Central Indiana  
 (765) 376-9761  
[kacy@jaindy.org](mailto:kacy@jaindy.org)

Lisa Tellus  
 Hirons  
 (425) 761-6881  
[ltellus@hirons.com](mailto:ltellus@hirons.com)

**2019 JA JobSpark Industry Partners:****2019 Industry Partners****Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering and Logistics**

Allied Automation, Allison Transmission, Ed Martin Automotive Group, Eli Lilly and Company, Haas Factory Outlet, IN-MaC, Ivy Tech Community College, MSD Wayne Township, Purdue Polytechnic, Roche Indianapolis, Rolls-Royce, Snap-On Tools, UPS, Vincennes University Aviation Technology Center

**Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources**

American Dairy Association of Indiana, Celebrate Science Indiana, Corteva Agriscience, Indiana Corn Marketing Council, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Indiana Farm Bureau, Indiana Soybean Alliance, Indiana State Department of Agriculture, Indiana State Fairgrounds and Event Center, Indianapolis Power and Light Company, MacAllister Machinery, Prairie Farms, Purdue Extension, Weaver Popcorn

**Architecture, Engineering and Construction**

Build Your Future Indiana, Business Furniture, Custom Concrete Company, Inc., EmployIndy, Fanning Howey Associates, Inc., Gaylor Electric, GroundsPRO, Hagerman Construction, IBEW Local 481, IKORCC, Indiana Mineral Aggregates Association, Indiana University Health, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 103, Keramida Inc., MSD Wayne Township, Pepper Construction, Powers & Sons Construction Company, R.E. Dimond and Associates, Inc., Rebuilding Together Indianapolis, Relocation Strategies, RJE Business Interiors, Rowland Design, Safety Management Group, Schmidt Associates, Tiny Homes Indy, Try It Tiny, UA Local 440 Plumbers, Pipefitters & HVAC Service Technicians, West Side Tractor Sales Company, Wilhelm

**Business and Finance**

BMO Harris Bank, The Capital Group Companies, Deloitte, Eli Lilly and Company, EmployIndy, Fuel Merchandise Group, Indianapolis Public Schools, JPMorgan Chase & Co., OneAmerica Financial Partners, Inc., STAR Financial Bank, Strategic Capital Partners,

**Government, Law and Public Service**

City of Indianapolis-Office of the Mayor, EmployIndy, FBI Indianapolis, Indiana Commission for Higher Education, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Indiana General Assembly, Indiana House of Representatives, Indiana National Guard, Indiana Youth Institute, Indianapolis Fire Department, Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, Indianapolis Public Schools, Indy Public Safety Foundation, Indiana State Senate, Marian University, Marion County Sheriff's Office, Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center, National Weather Service, Office of Senator Todd Young, State of Indiana

### **Health and Life Sciences**

Community Health Network, Donate Life Indiana, Eli Lilly and Company, EmployIndy, Eskenazi Health, Franciscan Health, Health & Hospital Corporation of Marion County, Indiana Donor Network, Indiana University Health, Indianapolis Emergency Medical Services, Jane Pauley Community Health Center, Marion County Public Health Department, MSD Washington Township, Rehabilitation Hospital of Indiana, Roche Indianapolis, St. Vincent-Ascension, St. Vincent Sports Performance, Trilogy Health Services, University of Indianapolis MICI-AHEC

### **Hospitality and Tourism**

Arts Council of Indianapolis, DJ gNo, EmployIndy, Harrison Center for the Arts, Indiana FCCLA, Indiana ProStart, Indiana Roof Ballroom, Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites, Indianapolis Children's Choir, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, Indianapolis Zoo, JW Marriott Indianapolis, LIFT Academy, NCAA Hall of Champions, Quincy Owens Art, Republic Airways, The Children's Museum of Indianapolis, Visit Indy, Yellow Rose Carriages

### **Technology**

1<sup>st</sup> Maker Space, Beck's Hybrids, Beech Grove City Schools, Cheetah Digital, Ed Martin Automotive Group, GadellNet, Kronos Incorporated, Microsoft, PropelUp, Salesforce