

Junior Achievement – My First Teaching Experience

On May 23, 2013, I completed teaching Mr. Weinerman's 7th grade class, Junior Achievement's *Global Marketplace* course at Conniston Middle School in West Palm Beach. It was an extremely rewarding experience that has fueled my passion for Junior Achievement's mission to prepare and inspire young people to succeed in a global economy through classroom programs and simulations that focus on work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. As a member of Junior Achievement of the Palm Beaches & Treasure Coast's Board of Directors, it is important to volunteer in the classroom as I work to recruit volunteer teachers and donations from our community. My own experience has further solidified my commitment to Junior Achievement and has helped me better understand the relevancy and impact of JA programs on today's youth.

As a Corporate Banker at BB&T, I don't usually get the opportunity to interact with young students and, understandably, was nervous the first day I showed up to teach the 6 lesson Junior Achievement course. I quickly got over the initial feeling of anxiety and established a strong dialogue with the kids thanks to the material and training provided by the JA staff. This course covers such topics as international trade, immigration, imports, exports, types of market places, and foreign exchange with a focus on fiscal responsibility. The students looked forward to my arrival for each lesson and I was moved by how engaged they were in each topic we covered. It was encouraging to not only have the support and undivided attention of the students but to also have their teacher share his own business experience. As a father, it was a tremendously rewarding experience to share my expertise and pass on my knowledge to the future entrepreneurs and leaders of our community. My hope is that my experience will motivate others to get into the classroom and help us empower more young people to own their economic success. I cannot wait for the fall to get back into the classroom!

David L. Hamilton, III
Regional Corporate Banker, BB&T

About Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices. JA programs are delivered by corporate and community volunteers, and provide relevant, hands-on experiences that give students from kindergarten through twelfth grade knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. JA programs are taught by volunteers in the classroom and after school in over 120 schools and organizations throughout Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, and Hendry Counties. Junior Achievement programs are funded through contributions from businesses, individuals, foundations, and special event fundraisers. Visit www.juniorachievement.com for more information.