



**New Release
For Immediate Release**

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Photographed (left to right) fifth from the left in standing back row with JA student ambassadors, Catherine Milone, President, Junior Achievement of New Jersey; Celestina Quintana, Owner/Operator, McDonald's; Colleen Repplier, President, Tyco Fire Products; Patrizia Pescatore, Senior Manager, Accenture. Front row: Alison Cornell, Chief Financial Officer, Covance; Lenora Green, Senior Director, ETS Center for Advocacy and Philanthropy; Pamela Pruitt, Director of Multicultural Affairs, Rider University.

Women's Forum Inspires Promising High School Girls

Princeton, NJ – On May 16th at Tyco, Princeton, more than 60 of New Jersey's top female executives and business leaders from various industries came together to support some of New Jersey's most promising high school-age girls from Trenton High School, Franklin Township High School, and Hightstown High School at JA's Annual Central Jersey Women's Future Leadership Forum, the second of their three regional Forum events being held this school-year. The May 16th event was sponsored by Accenture and Tyco and was also supported by ETS and Johnson & Johnson serving as breakout session leads.

The Forum kicked off with welcome remarks by Junior Achievement of NJ's State Board Director, Larry Costello, Executive Vice President, Tyco who encouraged everyone in the room to take full advantage of this networking opportunity. Then, panel discussions were led by moderator Patrizia Pescatore, Senior Manager, Accenture, "I was both inspired and energized to be part of this year's Forum. Seeing the spark of connections being made and knowing the mentees gained valuable networks, insights and skills for their future success was extremely rewarding."

The panel of executives included Alison Cornell, Chief Financial Officer, Covance; Lenora Green, Senior Director, ETS Center for Advocacy and Philanthropy; Pamela Pruitt, Director of Multicultural Affairs, Rider University; Colleen Repplier, President, Tyco Fire Products; Celestina Quintana, Owner/Operator, McDonald's. The esteemed panel shared their personal stories through an exciting and informative question and answer session that included sharing their top teachable and most courageous professional moments in their lives. The discussions were also around a variety of topics relevant to the girls around the importance of an education, building their network and the value of owning their personal economic success as it relates to their future.

The panel discussions were followed by one-on-one mentoring sessions that helped the young ladies build self-confidence by crafting their first-ever personal bios and practicing their elevator pitches. Also, when in pairs, the students received further guidance on the relevance of getting a secondary education.

The day also featured a hands-on, team building lesson from the JA Career Success® program which included the program's four main skill building concepts, the 4 C's: critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication in small group breakout sessions. The day concluded with a large group discussion in the auditorium, where the students shared their takeaways and expressed their gratitude for sharing the experience.

Catherine Milone, JANJ's president shared, "JA's Women's Future Leadership Forum is truly an inspirational and motivational experience for our JA student ambassadors. We are so honored to be able to connect such incredibly successful and dedicated women with our high school students to help educate and empower them to own their economic success!"

About Junior Achievement of New Jersey

Junior Achievement of New Jersey (JANJ) is 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. They provide relevant, hands-on experiences that give students from kindergarten through high school knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. During the 2013-14 school year, JANJ will reach nearly 48,000 students in more than 71 school districts across the New Jersey. For more information visit us at www.janj.org. Follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook.