



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**

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Left to right: Patricia Chiaro, 2013 Educator of the Year (2nd from left) is flanked by, John Bulina, President of NJ School Boards Association; Kevin O'Sullivan of Crowe Horwath and Breakfast Chairman, Corey Parmiter, a JA alum and former student of Ms. Chiaro's at Washington Twp. High School, Na-Tori Nance of Hightstown High School and Breakfast Mistress of Ceremonies; Dr. Larry Feinsod of the NJ School Boards Association; Catherine Milone, President of Junior Achievement of NJ, and Breakfast Keynote Speaker, Ron Jaworski.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual JA Partners in Achievement Breakfast Spotlights Business-Education Partnerships**

*February 25, 2014, (Cinnaminson, NJ)* – BlackRock, Crowe Horwath, Earp Cohn P.C., Comegno Law P.C., AmeriHealth New Jersey, and Fulton Bank of New Jersey came together at Riverton Country Club in support of the 2nd Annual JA Partners in Achievement Breakfast to benefit Junior Achievement students in the Garden State. Approximately 200 guests attended to network and learn about the value of being involved with JA from the perspectives of educators, volunteers, and students. Proceeds from the breakfast support the JA High School Heroes service-learning and leadership development program that is offered at no cost to participating schools.

Na-Tori Nance, a sophomore at Hightstown High School and an eight-year participant in JA, was the mistress of ceremonies, and kicked off the event with a powerful story of how she applied what she learned in JA to her everyday life by setting up her own candy business and opening a savings account. Junior Achievement of New Jersey (JANJ) President, Catherine Milone, followed with an explanation about how valuable it is to our state and the future of young people in establishing business-education partnerships. The Superintendent of Washington Twp. Public Schools, Bob Goldschmidt, and Susan Carducci of Verizon and JANJ South District Board Chairwoman, then presented the 2013 Educator of the Year to Patricia Chiaro of Washington Twp. High School which recognized her 15 years of dedicated service to business education and the expansion of the JA High School Heroes service-learning programs.

Dr. Larry Feinsod, Executive Director of the NJ School Boards Association and JANJ State Board Director, spoke to the value JA helping to fill the employability skills and financial literacy gaps in the education system, then Richard Miller, CEO of Virtua, shared a testimonial about the value of employee engagement within their network of healthcare facilities which included a riveting video highlighting Virtua employees facilitating the "Virtua JA-in-2 Days" volunteer program at D.U.E. Season's Charter School in Camden, NJ.

Corey Parmiter, a recent graduate of Washington Twp. High School and JA High School Heroes Alumnus, then talked about how JA helped her to improve her communication skills, reinforced her career

plan, and increased her sense of social responsibility. She reflected of her volunteer experience, “Seeing how astonished they are when you tell them that when they get older they can make their idea a reality is priceless. I have seen JA inspire classrooms of children to follow their dreams, and that opportunity for success is all around us.”

The visionary keynote speech, rendered by Ron Jaworski of ESPN and Ron Jaworski golf, spoke on the how JA programs empower youth to own their economic success, the aspects of leadership, persevering through tough times with a competitive drive, and how the business community should take an active role in providing youth more opportunities.

Anthony Panto of Oberman | Panto Wealth Strategies, who helped introduce JA programs to the Washington Twp. schools, spoke on how all people can utilize their skills, resources, and spheres of influence to support the JA mission, emphasizing that JA is relevant because all students regardless of geography and socio-economic status need financial literacy and work readiness. This point is underscored by Kevin O’Sullivan, Partner at Crowe Horwath LLP and Chairman of the breakfast when he said, “Why I am involved with JA...At the very least we will teach a new generation of children how to be financially responsible and make good choices for themselves. At the best, we will spark a whole new generation of entrepreneurs which will make NJ’s economy run over the next 20-40 years.”

If you have interest in volunteering, please contact Christy Tighe at (609) 419-0404 ext.105 or at [ctighe@ja.org](mailto:ctighe@ja.org). For more information about involvement in the JA Partners in Achievement Breakfast, call Mike Troutman at (609) 419-0404 ext.101 or visit the website at [www.janj.org](http://www.janj.org).

### **About Junior Achievement of New Jersey**

Junior Achievement of New Jersey 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. Today, JANJ reached 44,799 students in 2013 in more than 71 school districts across the New Jersey. For more information visit us at [www.janj.org](http://www.janj.org). Follow us on Twitter and like us on Facebook.