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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana Wins Award for Innovation**

Innovation in the classroom is vital to making learning relevant for today’s students. In recognition of one of its creative ideas designed to make education relevant, Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana has won a 2012 MetLife Foundation Sowing the Seeds of Entrepreneurship Award. The award, one of only five across the nation, includes a \$10,000 grant for developing and demonstrating the innovation.



“Making It Relevant” is the title of Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana’s winning idea. This innovation focuses on locally modifying current JA middle school programs to include enhancements that will make the learning activities relevant to the challenging economic circumstances being experienced by young people and their families.

“Working with educators and volunteers, our creative staff team recognized the need to provide local program enhancements that supplement the professionally developed JA middle school programs teachers request for their classrooms,” says Lena Yarian, President, Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana. “We are honored to be one of only five JA areas to receive this MetLife Foundation award, which recognizes our dedication to providing programs that enhance the relevancy of education.”

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“JA operations play a vital role in preparing young people to succeed in a global economy and in life,” said Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation. “We are pleased to join JA in honoring Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana for exemplary innovation and entrepreneurship, which are helping increase its reach and impact on young people.”

Since 1952, Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana has partnered with educators, community volunteers and businesses to deliver innovative programming that inspires and prepares young people to succeed in a global economy. During the 2012-13 school year, more than 101,000 young people in pre-kindergarten through high school classrooms across 25 counties in northern Indiana will benefit from JA programs. Visit [www.jani.org](http://www.jani.org) for more information about JA programs across northern Indiana.

*Serving more than 101,000 pre-kindergarten through high school students in a 25-county area each year, **Junior Achievement of Northern Indiana** is dedicated to educating and inspiring young people to succeed in a global economy. With the support of more than 3,000 educators and 5,000 positive adult role models who volunteer their time, Junior Achievement’s in-school, JA BizTown, and JA Finance Park economic education programs focus on three key content areas: work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. These experiences empower young people to own their future economic success. For more information visit [www.jani.org](http://www.jani.org).*

*MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 to continue MetLife’s longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. The Foundation’s commitment to building a secure future for individuals and communities worldwide is reflected in its dedication to empowering older adults, preparing young people and building livable communities. Since it was established, MetLife Foundation has provided more than \$530 million in grants to nonprofit organizations addressing issues that have a positive impact in their communities. For more information visit [www.metlife.org](http://www.metlife.org).*

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