



NEWS RELEASE

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AMEREN ILLINOIS PARTNERS WITH JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT TO PROVIDE HANDS-ON LEARNING TO AREA STUDENTS

(Edwardsville, IL) – Junior Achievement in Southwestern Illinois announces that it has received a grant in the amount of \$10,000 from Ameren Illinois to fund JA programs for youth in its Illinois territories. This support will help provide JA programs focusing on work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy to nearly 20,000 Kindergarten – high school children.

The purpose of JA is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. JA programs are delivered by corporate and community volunteers, and provide relevant, hands-on experiences. The dynamic interaction between JA volunteers and students promote active learning and brings theory to life. The volunteers bring real-life business experience and guidance into the classroom at a time that represents an essential crossroads for young people.

"This generous donation to Junior Achievement in Southwestern Illinois will help us in our mission to impact even more students with valuable educational programs," said Lori Jacob, President and CEO of Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis. "We are pleased to have the support of Ameren Illinois."

"Our goal is to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve," said Jason Klein, Director Division V, Ameren Illinois. "Nothing empowers like mentoring and education. That's why we are proud to support the efforts of Junior Achievement. Programs like this can make all the difference in a young life."

About Junior Achievement of Southwestern Illinois

Junior Achievement of Southwestern Illinois is a district operation of Junior Achievement of Greater St. Louis, Inc. (JASTL), a member of Junior Achievement USA, who has successfully provided JA programs for the children in the St. Louis Metropolitan area since 1943. In addition to our original offering of one after-school program for high school students, JASTL now provides twenty-four programs delivered in-school to K-12 youth. Guided by a volunteer board of directors comprised of sixty-two dedicated business, civic and educational leaders and assisted by over 7,500 adult volunteers who provided more than one million contact hours with students, JASTL served over 149,000 students in more than 750 schools throughout its territory during the 2014-2015 school year. In the Southwestern

Illinois area, with the assistance of an advisory board of directors, nearly 19,000 students experienced Junior Achievement programs. For more information, visit www.jastl.org.

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