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HSH Essay
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High School Heroes

Junior Achievement

As an individual, I value the importance of volunteer work, especially when I'm doing something that I love. The experiences I made with Junior's Achievement's High School Heroes Program are ones that I will never forget. This program was very influential as it allowed for me to recognize that a career in business is what I want to pursue in my future, and provided me with hands-on experience in an environment unlike no other.

The experience of the program overall led me to take on challenges of a responsible and successful leader. Teaching through the program helped me identify my own strengths and develop areas for growth, show commitment and determination to successfully carry out community activities, and demonstrate skills to recognize the benefits of working collaboratively with my fellow classmates; High School Heroes led me to recognize what I am passionate about. It provided me with the realization that I am suited to lead, and that I possess the necessary skills and perseverance to pursue a career in business in the future, additionally highlighting my social skills and how valuable they truly are to me—strengthening my abilities to properly take control in a meaningful way, yet come across as a trustful role model to the students and teachers of the classrooms. I definitely have grown mentally and socially as an individual, and will continue to value the importance of the High School Heroes Program for the rest of my life.

Currently, I've been a High School Heroes teacher of two different classes of the fourth and fifth grade, as well as the manager of many student teachers. As a teacher, I instructed students on a grade-specific business curriculum to the fourth-grade and fifth-grade classes and, overall, taught about the fundamentals of business. Likewise, as a manager and with my previous knowledge from teaching, I assisted the high school student teachers in group activities and answered any questions they had to retain order within the classroom. Because I have a love for such an activity, I'm so glad I partook in the program, and that's why you should too!

The best part about the High School Heroes Program is that each time I participate, I'm always rewarded with something new. My most memorable experience would be when I had the opportunity to meet and discuss my future plans with New York State Assemblyman Michael Fitzpatrick. Junior Achievement has provided me with the opportunity to not only create memorable experiences, but to network as well; while we are giving back to our community, Junior Achievement is shaping future leaders in the process: an opportunity that I've never been offered before.

Overall, Junior Achievement's High School Heroes Program has enabled me to discover a whole new side of myself that I never knew I had. I've been driven to challenge myself and be committed to a cause, especially when I'm giving back to my community. There's nothing better than seeing the elementary school students illuminate with bright smiles and desire to learn, as they view me as a role model. I am very thankful for Junior Achievement, as the experiences I've created with such a program allowed for me to grow as an individual and strengthen my leadership skills in the process, and I will forever continue to preserve my learnings.