



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT TEEN ENTREPRENEURS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIP**

*Junior Achievement of Northern California teens compete against 14 other student-run companies to place in top 3*

*Sunnyvale, CA* — On Wednesday, June 20, in Washington, D.C., the teen entrepreneurs of Silicube, Co & Junior Achievement of Northern California placed in the top 3 among 15 JA student companies competing to win the JA Company of the Year, powered by The Hartford, at Junior Achievement's (JA) 2018 National Student Leadership Summit (NSLS).

The Santa Clara County teens representing their student company in Washington D.C. were awarded a scholarship from The Hartford. The Hartford provided scholarships to the five students representing each of the top three finishing teams. The team members of the third place team, Silicube, Co, were awarded a \$1,000 scholarship.

"Thank you very much to the Hartford for sponsoring the JA Company Program. While this is still a competition I found it to be extremely valuable to interact with other bright young minds and enjoy the power that youth has," said Ronald, Silicube, Co, President, rising Senior at Monta Vista High School.



Silicube, Co was founded in 2018 after a group of high school students had problems with their lunches and athletic equipment being moist and creating unsanitary environments for their food and athletic wear. This inspired the team to create a biodegradable plastic cube made to store silica gel packets, and functions by eliminating the leak of silica from the packet itself and reducing moisture.

The annual JA Company of the Year Competition is a contest of business skills, ingenuity and innovation that focuses on the accomplishments of U.S. *JA Company Program*® students, ages 15-18. Reaching more than 10,000 U.S. students during the 2017-18 school year creating nearly 500 start-ups, *JA Company Program* gives teens the skills to start and run their own businesses under the mentorship of a local business volunteer.

"I'm proud that Silicube, Co has been recognized as the third place JA Company of the Year. I have watched these students throughout the year as they started and grew their business. They truly demonstrate how fostering entrepreneurship can help spur economic growth through innovation and job creation," said Cristene Burr, JA of Northern California, President

"The Hartford is proud to partner with Junior Achievement and to recognize the accomplishments of these young entrepreneurs," said AnnMarie LaBreck, head of national philanthropic partnerships and programs at The Hartford. "Business ownership is critical to the success of our communities. We partner with Junior Achievement to help young people see the opportunities associated with entrepreneurship, not only to help them and their families prevail, but their communities as well."

The student companies competing at the JA NSLS were assessed on their financial performance, individual team members' personal and professional development, on a self-produced commercial about their product or service, on their team's live presentation to a panel of business leaders, and on their company's performance at an Entrepreneurship Expo on Capitol Hill attended by Members of Congress.

### **About Junior Achievement USA® (JA)**

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization 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, and provide relevant, hands-on experiences that give students from kindergarten through high school knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. Today, JA reaches more than 4.8 million students per year in 109 markets across the United States, with an additional 5.2 million students served by operations in 100 other countries worldwide. Junior Achievement USA is a member of JA Worldwide. Visit [www.ja.org](http://www.ja.org) for more information.

### **About The Hartford**

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