



For Immediate Release

Leaders to be Honored at the 25th Annual Junior Achievement West Michigan Business Hall of Fame

*JA West Michigan Business Hall of Fame Names Inductees
at Dinner and Ceremony*

Grand Rapids, Mich., April 28, 2014 – Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes, Inc. (JA) announced today that Donald Heeringa, chairman of Trendway Corporation, and Kevin Kabat, vice chairman and CEO of Fifth Third Bancorp, will be inducted into the Junior Achievement West Michigan Business Hall of Fame. Heeringa, Kabat will be honored at the 25th annual Junior Achievement West Michigan Business Hall of Fame dinner and ceremony on May 29, 2014 at the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Junior Achievement West Michigan Business Hall of Fame honors prominent business leaders who have made extraordinary contributions to West Michigan, earned the respect of the local community and called attention to the free enterprise system and its value to the area.

“These business leaders are a true representation of JA’s unique entrepreneurial mission and have both left their mark on this community and the entire state,” said Bill Coderre, President, Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes, Inc. “From furniture to finances, each inductee has successfully demonstrated hard work and vision in their respective industries, and we’re thrilled to include them on our roster of West Michigan Business Hall of Fame Laureates.”

West Michigan Business Hall of Fame Laureates

West Michigan Business Hall of Fame Laureates are recognized for their lifelong achievements in business and community leadership. They are selected based on their history of adhering to the following criteria:

- Adherence to the highest moral and ethical principles
- Significant contributions to their profession or organization
- Demonstration of civic responsibility and community involvement
- Possess a record of outstanding business achievements
- Serve as an outstanding role model for others, especially the youth of the community
- Having worked in West Michigan

Donald Heeringa, chairman of Trendway Corporation

Heeringa, Chairman of Trendway Corporation, is a native of Holland, Michigan, where he has lived most of his life. He presided over the growth of Trendway from a 13-man operation to a thriving office furniture manufacturer employing hundreds in the local community.

As a community member he has served as a Board member for many businesses and organizations, and received many awards and recognitions, including Michigan Small Business Person of the Year. Heeringa was a founding member of Lakeshore Advantage (local Economic Development agency) and West Michigan Works. He has served in leadership positions in office furniture trade associations, even



testifying before Congress on the economic impact of Federal Prison Industries on office furniture manufacturers. Heeringa maintains a passion for collectible and custom cars. He has driven in the grueling La Carrera Pan American Road Race, a border-to-border sports car racing event on open roads in Mexico.

Heeringa earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Arizona State University.

Kevin Kabat vice chairman and CEO of Fifth Third Bancorp

As CEO, Kabat is responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of Fifth Third Bancorp, a diversified financial services company headquartered in Cincinnati, Ohio. The Company has \$130 billion in assets, nearly 21,000 employees and operates 17 affiliates in 12 states. Its four main businesses are Commercial Banking, Branch Banking, Consumer Lending and Investment Advisors. Kabat added vice chairman to his title in September 2012.



Prior to this role, Kabat served as president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank (Western Michigan) and served as Chair of the Junior Achievement board of directors among many other community involvement activities while in West Michigan. He was the vice chairman and president of Old Kent Bank, which was acquired by Fifth Third Bancorp in 2001. He joined Old Kent in 1982. Kabat is a Board member of Unum, the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, the Financial Services Roundtable and the Cincinnati Art Museum. He is a member of the Ohio Business Roundtable, Cincinnati Business Committee and the Executive Committee of the ArtsWave Board of Trustees. He is a member of the Commonwealth Club, the Commercial Club, Cincinnati Country Club and the Queen City Club.

Kabat received his bachelor's degree in behavioral science from Johns Hopkins University and a master's degree in industrial/organizational psychology from Purdue University.

The induction ceremony will be conducted at the 2014 Junior Achievement West Michigan Business Hall of Fame, a black tie (optional) dinner. Fifth Third Bank is the title sponsor for this event and Davenport University and BDO are the Laureate and General Reception sponsors respectively. For more information and to purchase tables or additional tickets, please contact Jay Ediger at 616-575-9080, ext. 227.

About Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes, Inc.

Junior Achievement of the Michigan Great Lakes is among the nation's top and 19th largest JA chapters and an area office of JA USA, the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students about workforce readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on programs. The organization offers programs to help prepare young people in Mid, West and North Michigan for the real world by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively manage it, how to create jobs which make their communities more robust, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace. Students put these lessons into action and are empowered to own their economic success. Visit www.westmichigan.ja.org for more information.

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