

## News Release

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### For more information, contact:

Lisa Roy

Senior Development Manager

716-853-1381, ext. 212

Lroy@jawny.org



## 11th Annual Junior Achievement Stock Market Challenge Winners Announced

(**Buffalo, NY**) – On November 20th, a room filled with over 50 volunteers, 145 teams and 580 local students from 34 high schools experienced the thrill of the stock market trading floor at Junior Achievement's 11<sup>th</sup> annual JA Stock Market Challenge.

**Northwest Bank** is the Presenting Sponsor of this unique computer simulated stock market event which took place at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo. “Northwest is proud to be the presenting sponsor of the JA Stock Market Challenge. We would like to congratulate the winners and all the participants for their amazing preparation.” says Trina Burruss, Regional Vice President and Community Relationship Officer at Northwest Bank.

Students from all over WNY competed with a starting portfolio of \$1,000,000. The competition was fierce and the closest the event has ever seen. Hamburg High School maintained the lead until the last few days of trading when Attica High School made a trade to put them in first place. The difference between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place was \$3,673, and the difference between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place was \$10,810. Event emcees, Tom Puckett from WBEN and Ali Touhey from WKBW were an important part of the event as they announced the leader board, breaking news, stock performance and hot stock tips. Thirty-five volunteer “Traders” locked in students’ buy and sell trades on the chaotic trading floor.

Junior Achievement (JA) is pleased to recognize **Attica Senior High School**, as the first-place winners of the 2019 JA Stock Market Challenge with a 45.83 percent ROI and a net worth of \$1,458,254. “This program experience is something I look forward to providing to my Personal Finance class every year as it gives them an amazing hands-on experience and real life meaning to the stock market. It no longer is a foreign concept. I am so grateful to be able to attend this event though Junior Achievement and can't wait till next year” Melissa Girdlestone, Business Teacher, Attica Senior High School.

*Photo by Onion Studio:*



Taking second place is a team from **Hamburg High School**. They finished with a 44.74 percent increase in their portfolio and a final net worth of \$1,447,442.75. “Whether we end up with a large ROI or negative ROI this program is a highlight for my students. Learning to work together and communicate is crucial for the students. The skills learned at the Stock Market Challenge open the door to the world of financial planning and investing for our students.” says Sheila Sampson, Business Teacher, Hamburg High School.

The third place team is from **Lockport High School** with a 44.38 percent increase in their portfolio for a final net worth of \$1,443,769. "The Stock Market Challenge is something my students look forward to each year. They are eager to have a "real life" simulation that helps them learn about the ins and outs of stock trading while adding a bit of competition to it. JA is always continuing to improve the event and their preparation materials. We've participated each year since the inception of this event. It's a great activity for teachers and students. Congrats on 100 years!" says Jill DiTullio, Business Teacher at Lockport High School.

Rounding out the Top 10 rankings are teams from:

- 4<sup>th</sup> place: St. Francis High School, 43.54% ROI
- 5<sup>th</sup> place: Emerson School of Hospitality, 33.90% ROI
- 6<sup>th</sup> place: Falconer High School, 39.06% ROI
- 7<sup>th</sup> place: LeRoy Central School, 36.71% ROI
- 8<sup>th</sup> place: City Honors High School, 36.23% ROI
- 9<sup>th</sup> place: Allegany-Limestone High School, 35.05% ROI
- 10<sup>th</sup> place: Tonawanda High School, 34.80% ROI

Prior to the JA Stock Market Challenge, JA provides an in-class educational program called *JA Take Stock in Your Future*. Volunteers visit classrooms to teach students important facts about investments and the stock market in order to enhance students' overall learning experience.

Sponsors are: **Presenting** – Northwest Bank; **Future Financier** – Delta Air Lines; **T-shirt** – Trocaire College; **Hot Stock Tip** – HSBC Bank; **Trader** – Tops Friendly Markets; **News Release** – Perry's Ice Cream and SUNY Fredonia; **Corporate Lunch** – West Herr Automotive Group and MidCity Office Furniture; **Media** – WBEN News Radio 930; **Coffee Station** – Zgoda and Associates CPAs, **Student Lunch** – Bryant & Stratton College; **Student Portfolio** - Medaille College; **Blue Chip** – BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York; PwC; Reid Family Foundation. **Preferred Share** – Cannon Design; Confer Plastics Inc.; Curbell, Inc.; The Evans Agency Insurance; KPMG LLP; Lawley; Linde; Lippes Mathias Wexler Friedman LLP; National Fuel; Niagara University; Phillips Lytle LLP; SEFCU; Seneca Foods Foundation; Uniland Development Company; WSF Industries, Inc. **Common Share:** The Bonadio Group; Bond, Schoeneck & King LLC; Buffalo Niagara Business Ethics Association; Casteel Schoenborn; Delaware North; Financial Trust Federal Credit Union, Freed Maxick CPAs; Goldberg Segalla, Gramkee Financial Consulting, Harper International Corporation, Hodgson Russ LLP, KeyBank N.A., L & M Wealth Management; Lakelet Capital LLC, Monofrax; SendYourKidsToCollege.com, Stahlka Agency; TriMain Development; Wells Fargo Bank N.A. **Generous Team funding:** The Lenna Foundation.

Participating high schools for the 2019 JA Stock Market Challenge are: Academy School (PS @ 131), Alden High School, Alexander High School, Allegany-Limestone Central School, Amherst Central High School, Attica High School, Batavia High School, BPS #198 The International Prep School, Burgard High School, Cardinal O'Hara High School, City Honors School, Clarence High School, Depew High School, Ellicottville Central High School, Emerson School of Hospitality, Falconer Central School, Fredonia High School, Hamburg High School, Hutch Tech High School, Kenmore East High School, LeRoy Jr/Sr High School, Lockport High School, MST High School, Mount St. Mary Academy, Niagara Falls High School, North Tonawanda High School, Pembroke

Jr/Sr High School, Pioneer High School, St. Francis High School, Sweet Home High School, Tonawanda High School, West Seneca East High School, West Seneca West High School, Westfield Academy & Central School

Proceeds from the JA Stock Market Challenge support the event as well as Junior Achievement's financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and career & work-readiness programs for kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. In the 2018-2019 school year, Junior Achievement of WNY enriched the lives of 16,089 students in 174 schools and community organizations throughout the eight counties of Western New York.



**Attica Senior High School** taking first place in the 2019 JA Stock Market Challenge. Team members received a gift card from Tops Markets, \$500 each in college scholarships made possible by MidCity Office Furniture, and their names engraved on the travelling Wall Street Bull Trophy. (Pictured above: Laurie Mahoney, Trina Burrus, Rick Hamister, Breanna Mest, Kaylee Bonamici, Kaylynn Bell, Ethan Bernacki, Kurt Amico. Photo by Onion Studio)



**Hamburg High School** took second place in the JA Stock Market Challenge. Each team member received an electronics gift basket with Kindle HD Fire, case, earbuds and more sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield of

Western New York. (Pictured: Trina Burrus, Rick Hamister, Jack Harper, Jacob Fuhrman, Mikey Sawulak and Grace Haapapuro, Jeff Martin, Laurie Mahoney, Photo by Onion Studio)



**Lockport High School** placed third in the JA Stock Market Challenge. Team members received a Visa gift card courtesy of West Herr Automotive Group. Lockport students Max Hertel and Alyssa Edbauer were on Lockport's first-place team in 2017. (Pictured: Trina Burrus, Laurie Mahoney, Rick Hamister Emma Anderson, Max Hertel, Cheryl Byrne, Alyssa Edbauer, Anthony Haak, Photo by Onion Studio)

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