



NEWS RELEASE

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**JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF WASHINGTON NAMES NATALIE VEGA O’NEIL AS
PRESIDENT**

Seattle, WA. Junior Achievement of Washington announced today that **Natalie Vega O’Neil**, formerly the Associate Vice President of U.S. Programs and Executive Director, Head Start Programs with Save the Children, has been named president. As president of the Junior Achievement office, O’Neil will manage the organization’s work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy programs that currently reach over 100,000 K-12 students in the State.

“We are so excited about Natalie’s appointment. She brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm to Junior Achievement,” stated Steve Hatfield, Region Bank President, Northern Washington Region for Wells Fargo Bank and Chairman of the Junior Achievement of Washington Board of Directors.

Ms. O’Neil began her professional career with the Make-A-Wish organization and has held positions of increased responsibility with the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago, Camino Nuevo Charter Academy, and Thrive Washington prior to joining Save the Children in 2009. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Telecommunications from Ball State University and a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education and Child Development from the Erikson Institute.

“I am proud and honored to join a prominent organization like JA with such an important mission,” commented O’Neil. “JA educates and inspires young people to value free enterprise, business,

and economics to improve the quality of their lives. I will work hard to ensure students experience JA's high-quality programs so they can gain the skills relevant to success in their future careers and in their lives."

About Junior Achievement

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 4.8 million students per year in more than 100 markets across the United States, with an additional 5.6 million students served by operations in over 100 other countries worldwide. Visit www.ja.org for more information.

About Junior Achievement of Washington (JA)

For 65 years JA of Washington has been a part of Washington communities - working with schools and businesses - to build strong, viable partnerships that serve young people. Guided by the basic beliefs of integrity, respect and excellence, JA's purpose is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. JA fulfills its purpose via educational programs that focus on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work readiness.

Driven by the passionate power of its volunteer citizens, JA programs are taught by community and business mentors - individuals committed to the success and healthy development of young people. Long established as a key component of its successful program dynamic, JA recognizes the positive impact of mentorship and its power to build pathways to sustainable, productive futures for young people. For more information visit www.jawashington.org.

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