Bechtel Tops $190,000 in Giving to Junior Achievement Programs

**Tri-Cities schools benefit from global firm’s donations, volunteers**

KENNEWICK, WA (April 25, 2019) — Junior Achievement in Southeastern Washington (JA) announced today it has received a $25,000 contribution from Bechtel Group Foundation, marking $190,000 in total giving to the local chapter from the global firm since 2011. This most recent gift enables JA to deliver classroom programs focused on work readiness and entrepreneurship as part of Bechtel’s *Building Future Leaders* program.

Bechtel’s support is providing expansion of Junior Achievement programs, delivering programming to students who might not otherwise have an opportunity to experience such enrichment programs. Bechtel volunteers from Hanford’s Vitrification Plant are visiting local classrooms to deliver the programs.

“Bechtel’s generous partnership has enabled 4,100 young people in 160 classrooms throughout the Tri-Cities area to receive JA’s essential financial literacy education,” said Tamra Meyer, Junior Achievement’s Statewide Programs Director. “In 2018 alone, Bechtel volunteers delivered Junior Achievement programs to nearly 650 students in 14 schools.”

“We are proud to support our local Junior Achievement and its classroom programs,” explained Valerie McCain, a Bechtel principal vice president and Vitrification Plant project director. “Junior Achievement is a great way to cultivate students’ interest in work readiness, financial success and entrepreneurship.”

Junior Achievement is one of four nonprofits in Bechtel’s global stewardship program, which supports STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education and humanitarian engineering efforts with Foundation gifts and company volunteers. Bechtel has partnered with Junior Achievement entities and chapters in 14 countries.

Each year Junior Achievement reaches more than 10 million students worldwide, helping them develop successful financial management habits, providing entrepreneurship education, and imparting the skills necessary to succeed in a global workforce. JA in Southeastern Washington reaches nearly 12,000 students each school year.
About Bechtel

Bechtel is one of the world’s leading engineering and construction companies, and is designing and building the world’s largest radioactive waste treatment plant for the U.S. Department of Energy at the Hanford Site in southeastern Washington state. The Waste Treatment and Immobilization Plant, also known as the Vitrification Plant, will immobilize some of the chemical and radioactive waste stored in 177 underground tanks using a process called vitrification. Visit www.hanfordvitplant.com.

Bechtel’s George Rangel, a Junior Achievement of Southeastern Washington (JA) board member, and Tommy Ryon, a Junior Achievement executive ambassador, present a $25,000 contribution to Natalie Vega O’Neil, Junior Achievement of Washington President & CEO, Glenn Corey, JA Chief Financial Officer, and Tamra Meyer, JA Statewide Programs Director. Bechtel Group Foundation has provided JA in Southeastern Washington with $190,000 in total giving since 2011.

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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