

SDNB 5th Grader Kicks off Panel Discussion with Laureates at Junior Achievement's Legends Event

New Berlin, Wis. - The Junior Achievement of Wisconsin's annual JA Legends Breakfast on April 22 gave guests, including representatives from the School District of New Berlin, the opportunity to hear business philosophies, secrets of success and ask questions of Wisconsin Business Hall of Fame laureates.

"This gathering allows guests to hear from business legends on a personal and intimate level," Tim Greinert, President of Junior Achievement (JA) of Wisconsin, said. "All laureates are selected for their excellence in business and philanthropy, and for their significant contributions to our community. We hope their stories inspire local students to strive for success and encourage their entrepreneurial spirit."

Gavin Ponciroli, a fifth grader at Orchard Lane Elementary, served as CEO of Culver's during his school's recent trip to JA's BizTown, and was selected to help introduce this year's laureates, Craig Culver of Culver's and John Mellows of Charter Manufacturing, at the breakfast.

"We are so proud of Gavin for getting up in front of such a distinguished group and speaking so confidently," Orchard Lane associate principal Larry Lueck said. "He certainly showed off his developing leadership skills."

JA BizTown is a kid-sized city within JA's Wisconsin headquarters in Menomonee Falls. Several weeks of classroom learning culminates in a day-long visit to this fully-interactive, simulated free market lab where students become adults for a day. By working in one of 15 JA BizTown shops, students learn how to run a successful business, manage a checking account and work as a team. Through daily lessons, hands-on activities, and active participation in this simulated community, students develop a strong understanding of the relationship between what they learn in school and their successful participation in a global economy.

The School District of New Berlin has embedded JA BizTown into fifth-grade social studies curriculum, and all of the district's fifth graders annually attend the simulated town. JA has been instrumental in supporting portions of the district's K12 College and Career Readiness curriculum.

"The school district has been and will continue to be strong on academics, however, that is only one part of our vision of a College and Career Ready graduate," Superintendent Joe Garza said. "For students to be ready to graduate as informed consumers of post-secondary education with the knowledge, skills and dispositions they need to reach their goals, they need more."

In addition to the BizTown program, JA provides support to SDNB's district-wide K-6 Jump Into Your Future Day, secondary Career Days and financial literacy curriculum, and helps connect district staff to industry representatives for classroom presentations and industry tours.

During the JA Legend's panel discussion, the laureates were asked what school districts can do to support entrepreneurship education. In addition to SDNB's partnership with Junior Achievement, the district offers a host of learning opportunities to support the development of entrepreneurial thinking through targeted electives, co-curriculars and community/industry-based work/project-based challenges. Skills and dispositions developed through participation in these learning experiences provide students with a competitive edge regardless of their post-secondary plans.

Related Links:

- [JA Jump Into Your Future Day](#)
- [JA BizTown](#)
- [SDNB Receives Financial Literacy Award](#)
- [SDNB Students Learn How to Compete in an Innovation Economy](#)