



Kansas Department of Insurance

Commissioner Vicki Schmidt

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2025

Contact: Erica Self

Erica.Self@ks.gov

Junior Achievement students receive financial literacy scholarships from the Kansas Department of Insurance

Topeka, Kan. – Kansas Insurance Commissioner Vicki Schmidt, today, announced three participants in Junior Achievement of Kansas (JA) programs as winners of a financial literacy essay scholarship contest sponsored by the Securities Division of the Kansas Department of Insurance.

The Department granted \$10,000 to JA designated for a financial literacy essay contest in which the top three JA student essays split a share of the grant in scholarship funds.

The scholarship winners are:

1st Place, \$5,000 – Cora Genovese, Washburn Rural High School

2nd Place, \$3,000 – Makenna Stuke, Seaman High School

3rd Place, \$2,000 – Caleb Alvarez, Topeka High School

This year's winners showed strong knowledge of investment fraud risks and how to apply techniques designed to stop scammers," said Commissioner Schmidt. "The essays show that Junior Achievement students are obtaining practical money skills that will serve them well in adulthood."

"At Junior Achievement, we're committed to empowering students through educational experiences that build strong financial literacy skills. We're incredibly proud of the talented students who participated in our Personal Finance Symposium and took on the challenge of the Kansas Department of Insurance scholarship essay challenge" said President of Junior Achievement of Kansas Sarah Dunekack. "It's inspiring to see their hard work recognized, and we're honored to partner with the Kansas Department of Insurance to support our youth."

The first-place essay will join two other winners from the Kansas Council for Economic Education and Jobs for America's Graduates-Kansas to compete for the overall winner of the essay contest and an additional scholarship of \$5,000.

To learn more about Junior Achievement of Kansas, visit kansas.ja.org, 'Junior Achievement of Kansas' on Facebook, and on Twitter at @kansasja. For more information about the Kansas Department of Insurance or to learn more about making smart investment decisions, visit insurance.kansas.gov and SmartInvestKS.com.

###

Junior Achievement of Kansas (JA) is a member of the nation's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their futures, and make smart academic and economic choices. JA's programs—in the core content areas of work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy—ignite the spark in young people to experience and realize the opportunities and realities of work and life in the 21st century.