Junior Achievement of the Chisholm Trail

Back to School Global Giving Project

Junior Achievement's middle and high school programs provide our young people the skills to own their future economic success. Over 1,900 business and community volunteers across the Chisholm Trail region support their neighborhoods and schools by working in the classroom to share their personal experience and motivating students while delivering JA's curriculum. These mentors present lessons and relevant hands-on activities that encourage imagination and critical thinking, while motivating students to succeed.

Junior Achievement achieves its impact through professionally developed programs that motivate students and stress the relevance of education. JA's middle and high school programs focus on work readiness, financial literacy, and high school completion to provide students skills they need to compete in a 21st Century economy.

Based on research, the key intervention time is middle school and continuing through high school. The gap between highest- and lowest-performing students widens considerably during this time and students who fall behind in 6th grade typically remain in school for only five more years before dropping out. Environmental challenges emerge, including more competition among peers, less personal environments, more autonomy, and more challenging/abstract school work. This period has often been associated with a decline in academic achievement, performance motivation, and self-perceptions. It is a time when young adolescents are most likely to experiment with at-risk behaviors. It is also the point at which children begin to make pivotal decisions regarding their academic and career choices.

The volunteer, who serves as a mentor for the students while delivering the program, is the key to JA's success. Recently, a student told his JA volunteer that it was because of the volunteer that the student has decided to enroll in community college and get a degree.

Junior Achievement of the Chisholm Trail will impact the lives of over 30,000 students during the 2013/2014 school year. This project will provide the funds for 1,000 of those students to gain the benefits of a JA program.