



News Release

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Junior Achievement Awards Scholarships at 20th Annual JA Business Challenge

Eau Claire, WI— 40 students from 5 high schools across northwestern Wisconsin competed for scholarships today, Thursday, March 31, 2022 at the UW-Eau Claire campus. After a morning of strategizing at the 20th annual JA Business Challenge with local business professionals, high school students reaped the benefit for their effort and won post-secondary scholarships. Junior Achievement is pleased to announce this year's *JA Business Challenge 2022* scholarship winners:

First Place: Menomonie High School students **Elena Xiong and Olivia Rubenzer**, each won \$600 scholarship provided by Great Northern Corporation Mark Orendorff Memorial Scholarship and a \$25 Visa Gift Card donated by Charter Bank. The team was sponsored by Cardinal FG and mentored by Roger Gostomski from Cardinal FG.

Second Place: Chetek High School students William Beckman, Mathew Becker and Carter Kummet, each won \$400 scholarships provided by Market & Johnson, Inc. and BMO Harris Bank. The team was sponsored by Chetek Chamber of Commerce and mentored by Alex Swanson from Sterling Bank.

Third Place: Boyceville High School students Lacota Brown, Madison Andrews and Aryssa Scherer each won \$250 scholarship provided by WESTconsin Credit Union and WIN Technology. The team was sponsored Covia Corporation and mentored by Sam Gearing from State Farm Insurance.



1st Place Champs Menomonie High School students Elena Xiong and Olivia Rubenzer with business mentor Roger Gostomski from Cardinal

The first and second place teams will compete at the state Wisconsin JA Business Challenge competition set for May 12, 2022 at Acuity in Sheboygan, Wisconsin.

Business Sponsors: We thank the following businesses for supporting area youth through this year's JA Business Challenge. They include 3M, Bauer Built Incorporated, Bauman Associates, Ltd, Cardinal FG, CF Products, A Division of ChemCeed; Charter Bank, Chetek Chamber of Commerce, Clear Water Kiwanis, Co-op Credit Union, Covia Corporation, Festival Foods, Forward Bank, Group Health Cooperative, Jamf, McDonough Manufacturing Company, Northwestern Bank, Orgel Wealth Management, Royal Credit Union, SterlingBank, Wipfli, LLP and Xcel Energy

Also, thank you to the event's supporters and gift-in-kind contributors: UW-Eau Claire College of Business, Charter Bank, Culvers, Jennie-O Turkey Store, Kwik Trip, Courtesy Corporation, Merchants Bank, Royal Credit Union, Sam's Club, Starbucks, Sterling Water Culligan, Sharp Photo and Portrait, Woodman's Market and Walmart-Eau Claire. In addition thanks to Luc Anthony from Midwest Family Broadcasting and Andrew Martin from Gold Ridge Companies.

Junior Achievement (JA) 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. Locally, Junior Achievement has 12 area offices across Wisconsin and serve approximately 153,000 students mentored by nearly 9,000 volunteers. Northwestern Wisconsin staff collaborates with more than 690 volunteers and 670 teachers, educating more than 12,000 students throughout northwestern Wisconsin last school year. For more information visit us at wisconsin.ja.org or call 715-835-5566.