

News Release  
November 20, 2018

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## 10th Annual Junior Achievement Stock Market Challenge Winners Announced

**(Buffalo, NY)** – On November 15th, a room filled with over 50 volunteers, 141 teams and 570 local students from 33 high schools experienced the thrill of the stock market trading floor at Junior Achievement's 10<sup>th</sup> annual JA Stock Market Challenge.

**Northwest Bank** is the Presenting Sponsor of this unique computer simulated stock market event which took place at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center in Buffalo. “Northwest is proud to be the presenting sponsor of this year’s JA Stock Market Challenge. We couldn’t be prouder of the winners and all the students that participated” says Trina Burruss, Regional Vice President and Community Relationship Officer at Northwest Bank.

Students from all over WNY competed with a starting portfolio of \$1,000,000. Junior Achievement (JA) is pleased to recognize team “**Risky Business**” from **Sweet Home High School**, as the first-place winners of the 2018 JA Stock Market Challenge with a 41.25 percent ROI and a net worth of \$1,412,489. “The stock market challenge provides students with a challenging and rewarding extended learning opportunity. It provides a means for a very diverse group of students to interact and compete in a friendly environment with students they would normally not have a chance to meet. Friendships begin that hopefully the students take with them the rest of their lives” said Jeff Thomas, Sweet Home High School Business Education Teacher.

*Photo by Onion Studio:*



Taking second place is “**Byron-Bergen Belfort’s**” from **Byron-Bergen Jr/Sr. High School**. They finished with a 36.18 percent increase in their portfolio and a final net worth of \$1,361,844.88. “The Junior Achievement Stock Market Challenge has never let me or my students down. We all come home excited and energized. There is no better teacher than experience and they get it with this activity. It is worth the trip and all the preparation to see students who are sometimes disengaged to be actively involved in decision making and communication. Whether they end up in last or first place, their experience is always positive” said Marian Gerhardy, Business Teacher, Byron-Bergen High School.

In third place from **Depew High School** is “**Cra\$hers**” with a 36.14 percent increase in their portfolio for a final net worth of \$1,361,394. “The Depew High School Academy of Finance has been participating in the JA Stock Market Challenge for four years. Each year our students rave about the experience, stating how much they learned about investment and trading strategies, as well as the fun that they had competing against all the other schools. Having had three teams finish in the Top 3 over four years has given our students the motivation to outperform their predecessors” said David Maroshick, Business/Computer Technology Teacher, Depew High School.

Rounding out the Top 10 teams are:

4<sup>th</sup> place: The Defaults, Falconer High School, 34.72% ROI

5<sup>th</sup> place: 4 Pockets Full, Fredonia Central High School, 33.90% ROI

6<sup>th</sup> place: I Can’t Believe We Aren’t Bankrupt, Falconer High School, 33.51% ROI

7<sup>th</sup> place: Stocks by Toto, Sweet Home High School, 33.32% ROI

8<sup>th</sup> place: Billionaire Boys, Sweet Home High School, 33.08% ROI

9<sup>th</sup> place: Delavan Wolves, Math Science Tech Prep, 32.44% ROI

10<sup>th</sup> place: Loss Prevention, Niagara Falls High School, 32.23% ROI

Prior to the JA Stock Market Challenge, JA provided an in-class educational program called *JA Take Stock in Your Future*. Volunteers visited classrooms to teach students important facts about investments and the stock market in order to enhance students’ overall learning experience.

Prizes were awarded to the top three teams. Sweet Home High School winners received scholarship money from MidCity Office Furniture, Tops Friendly Markets gift cards, Perry’s Ice Cream certificates, as well as the honor of taking the engraved Wall Street Bull Trophy, sponsored by Northwest Bank, back to the school for the year. Each member of the second-place team won basket with a Kinde HD, case, wireless ear buds and battery charger provided by BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York. The third-place winners received Visa gift cards courtesy of West Herr Automotive Group. Top team members went home with New Era Caps.

Sponsors are: **Presenting Sponsor** – Northwest Bank; **Future Financier Sponsor** – Delta Air Lines; **T-shirt Sponsor** – Trocaire College; **Hot Stock Tip Sponsor** – HSBC Bank; **Trader Sponsor** – Tops Friendly Markets; **News Release Sponsor** – Perry’s Ice Cream and SUNY Fredonia; **Corporate Lunch Sponsors** – West Herr Automotive Group and MidCity Office Furniture; **Media Sponsor** – WBEN News Radio 930; **Coffee Station Sponsor** – Zgoda and Associates CPAs, **Student Lunch Sponsor** – Bryant & Stratton College; **Student Portfolio Sponsor**- Medaille College; **Blue Chip Sponsors** – BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York; Cannon Design; PwC; Reid Family Foundation. **Preferred**

**Share Sponsors** – Confer Plastics Inc.; Curbell, Inc. & Subsidiaries; The Evans Agency Insurance; Freed Maxick CPAs; KPMG LLP; Lawley; National Fuel; National Grid; Niagara County Community College; Niagara University; Phillips Lytle LLP; Praxair; SEFCU; Seneca Foods Foundation; Uniland Development Company; WSF Industries, Inc. **Common Share Sponsors:** The Bonadio Group, Bond, Schoeneck & King LLC, Casteel Schoenborn, Financial Trust Federal Credit Union, Goldberg Segalla, Gramkee Financial Consulting, Harper International Corporation, Hodgson Russ LLP, KeyBank N.A., Lakelet Capital LLC, Niagara Transformer, SendYourKidsToCollege.com, Stahlka Agency, SUNY Erie Community College TriMain Development, Vanner Insurance, Wells Fargo Bank N.A. **Generous Team funding:** The Ralph C. Sheldon Foundation (Jamestown and Falconer High Schools) and The Lenna Foundation (Dunkirk High School).

Participating high schools for the 2018 JA Stock Market Challenge are: Academy School BPS #131, Alden High School, Alexander High School, Allegany-Limestone High School, Amherst Central High School, Attica High School, Byron-Bergen High School, Cardinal O'Hara, Charter High School for Applied Technologies, City Honors, Clarence High School, Depew High School, Dunkirk High School, Ellicottville High School, Emerson School of Hospitality, Falconer High School, Fredonia High School, Hamburg High School, Hutch Tech High School, Jamestown High School, Le Roy High School, Lockport High School, Math Science Tech Prep, Mt. St. Mary Academy, Niagara Falls High School, Nichols School, Pembroke High School, Pioneer High School, St. Francis School, Sweet Home High School, Tonawanda High School, West Seneca East High School, and West Seneca West High School.

Proceeds from the JA Stock Market Challenge support the event as well as Junior Achievement's financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and career & work-readiness programs for kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grade students. In the 2017-2018 school year, Junior Achievement of WNY enriched the lives of 15,751 students in 161 schools and community organizations throughout the eight counties of Western New York.



“Risky Business” from Sweet Home High School taking first place in the 2018 JA Stock Market Challenge. Team members received a gift card from Tops Markets, Perry’s Ice Cream Certificates, \$500 each in college scholarships made possible by MidCity Office Furniture, and their names engraved on the travelling Wall Street Bull Trophy. (Pictured above: Andrew Hahn, Claire Kearney, Samantha Liska, Jillian Wojtkowski, Kristen Williams, Rick Hamister. Photo by Onion Studio)



“Byron-Bergen Belfort’s” from Byron-Bergen Jr/Sr High School took second place in the JA Stock Market Challenge. Each team member received an electronics gift basket with Kindle HD Fire, case, and more sponsored by BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York (BCBS). (Pictured: Andrew Hahn, Rick Hamister, Laurie Mahoney, Jeff Martin, Tony DiQuattro, MacKenzie Rosse, Lydia Campbell and Jared Fregoe, Photo by Onion Studio)



“Cra\$hers” from Depew High School placed third in the JA Stock Market Challenge. Team members received a Visa gift card courtesy of West Herr Automotive Group. (Pictured: Andrew Hahn, Rick Hamister, Laurie Mahoney, Cheryl Byrne, Edward Heine, Trent Kubiak, and Zachary Zelaski  
Photo by Onion Studio)

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