



NEWS RELEASE

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For More Information, Contact:

David Moore, President
Junior Achievement of Washington
206.296.2626
david@jawashington.org

Junior Achievement of Washington Volunteer to be Honored at National Volunteer Summit

Seattle Mariners President & COO wins Junior Achievement's top volunteer leadership award for empowering students to own their economic success

Seattle, WA—Junior Achievement of Washington (JA) announced that Kevin Mather has been chosen from more than 237,000 U.S. volunteers as one of 11 recipients of the organization's most prestigious national award for volunteerism, the Gold Leadership Award.

Mather will be honored on Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at the Junior Achievement USA® (JA USA) Volunteer Summit. A celebration will be hosted in the recipients' honor at The Paley Center in New York City.

Junior Achievement's Gold Leadership Award honors volunteer excellence, presented in recognition of leadership in supporting and expanding JA's student impact, resources, operational excellence and sustainability. The Gold Leadership Awards honor the recipients' JA volunteer service during the 2015-16 school year.

Junior Achievement's Volunteer Summit will convene local JA leaders and chairpersons with the JA USA board of directors and national staff.

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“Our local business community’s support of JA is critical to achieving our mission, to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in the global economy,” said David Moore, president of Junior Achievement of Washington. Kevin Mather, President & COO of the Seattle Mariners, is a remarkable example of that spirit of dedication and service to others. In a very real way, he helps JA students in Washington State get the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and economic choices.”

Mather joined the JA of Washington board in 1996. Over the past 20 years, he has volunteered for JA and taught financial literacy educational programs at every grade level, in schools throughout the Seattle area. Mather has taken on leadership roles in the development and construction of JA’s highest impact program facilities and special events, has served as JA Executive board chairman as well as numerous other board positions, and motivates board members and fellow JA supporters to stay engaged.

Mather has gone above and beyond any obligation to champion the work of Junior Achievement. Safeco Field and the Seattle Mariners host the organization’s largest annual fundraiser, Dare to Dream, and *JA Job Shadows* for local students, as well as “JA Volunteer Appreciation Nights” at Seattle Mariners Games--as a unique opportunity to thank and motivate other volunteers.

Mr. Mather is a previous award recipient with Junior Achievement including, among others, a Bronze and Silver Leadership award, and in 2009 an Impact/Achievement award.

Junior Achievement’s entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and work readiness programs are delivered nationwide—typically in classrooms during the school day, by volunteer role models from the local business community. Junior Achievement of Washington serves over 120,000 students annually in the communities of Spokane, Yakima, Tri-Cities, Bellingham, Snohomish County, Seattle, Bellevue, Tacoma and the surrounding areas.

About Junior Achievement USA® (JA)

Junior Achievement 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. JA programs are delivered by corporate and community volunteers, and provide relevant, hands-on experiences that give students from kindergarten through high school knowledge and skills in financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship. Today, JA reaches 4.8 million students per year in more than 100 markets across the United

States, with an additional 5.6 million students served by operations over 100 other countries worldwide. Visit www.ja.org for more information.

About Junior Achievement of Washington (JA)

For 62 years JA of Washington has been a part of Washington communities - working with schools and businesses - to build strong, viable partnerships that serve young people. Guided by the basic beliefs of integrity, respect and excellence, JA's purpose is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. JA fulfills its purpose via educational programs that focus on financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work readiness.

Driven by the passionate power of its volunteer citizens, JA programs are taught by community and business mentors - individuals committed to the success and healthy development of young people. Long established as a key component of its successful program dynamic, JA recognizes the positive impact of mentorship and its power to build pathways to sustainable, productive futures for young people. For more information visit www.jawashington.org.

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