

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SOUTHWEST NEW ENGLAND AND CCSU PARTNER TO OFFER FREE COLLEGE CREDITS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

*Students can earn 3 or more credits for participating in JA's financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work readiness programs*

*Hartford, CT* – Junior Achievement of Southwest New England (JA) today announced that it has signed an agreement with Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) that will allow high school students to earn academic credits free of charge by taking JA courses at participating high schools across Connecticut.

As families navigate the cost of college tuition and as students seek to prepare for future career success, this is particularly welcome news.

Commenting on the new partnership, JA's President & CEO Jeremy Race shared, "We are thrilled to partner with CCSU to help students get a head start on college." He added, "this is especially rewarding as it recognizes the quality and rigor of JA's semester-long courses being comparable to the university's own courses."

Added CCSU President Dr. Zulma Toro, "this type of innovative agreement allows the university to partner with well-respected educational organizations like Junior Achievement and educate the next generation of leaders."

JA will begin registering students this fall for eligible courses in Spring 2025 and if students attend CCSU, in addition to the credit they will earn, the grade they receive will transfer to their college transcript and count toward their grade point average. Through this new partnership, ten JA semester-long courses can be taught by high school teachers within their own classroom and CCSU will award academic credits to students. If participating high schools offer more than one of the following approved JA courses, their students will have the ability to accumulate even more college credits prior to graduation:

- JA Business Communications
- JA Economics
- JA Entrepreneurial Mindset
- JA Financial Capability 1 and 2
- JA Financial Literacy
- JA Introduction to Business and Technology 1 and 2

- JA Marketing Principles 1 and 2

“This partnership with Junior Achievement exemplifies our commitment to providing opportunities for students to earn college credit during high school and to further pave the way for student success in the dynamic field of business,” says Dr. Lisa Frank, Interim Dean of Central’s School of Business.

JA is working with other local colleges and universities across Connecticut to form similar dual enrollment partnerships and will be announcing details in the months ahead.

### **About Junior Achievement of Southwest New England**

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 more than 4.8 million students per year in over 100 markets across the United States, with an additional 5.2 million students served by operations in 100 other countries worldwide.

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