

Kamil Drozd Derby HS

Veronica DiLullo

Subject:

FW: Junior Achievement Scholarship- John Rayner

With the end of the school year fast approaching I wanted to send out a reminder regarding the scholarships we have available for students that participate in JA program. You are receiving this email because your students are eligible for the **John Rayner Scholarship, in the amount of \$1000.00**. John and his wife reside in Brookfield, CT but have opened this scholarship to the entire JA of Western CT area. John a Junior Achievement Alumni who attributes, in part, his success in the semiconductor business based on the time he spent as VP of Marketing with the JA Company program. One student will be chosen based on an essay, please have them follow the below criteria when writing the essay. The submission due date is May 4, 2018. The student will have the ability to attend one of the area's recognition breakfast to read their essay.

### Criteria

- Student must be a JA of Western CT high school student that has participated in JA in the **current** school year
  - Student must demonstrate growth based on their experience with a JA in-class program or Business Challenge. Students must write a short essay (no longer than 750 words) by answering the following questions in order to demonstrate growth based on their experience with a JA in-class program, Business Challenge or other specialty Junior Achievement sponsored program
- 1) Overall which business and/or soft skills did you develop through the JA program and/or mentorship of the JA volunteer and how will they help you in your future?
  - 2) What did you learn about communication? (Give specific Examples) How do you think this will help you in your future?
  - 3) Did the JA program help you determine which career path/industry you would like to pursue? If not, did the program help solidify your current choice? Did you learn anything new about yourself and your interests? Be specific.
- Essay must be accompanied by a referral letter from a teacher

Jenn - 4  
Mel -  
Mel  
Laurie - 3

Sincerely,  
Jenn

Jennifer Murphy-Pitcher  
Director of Program  
Junior Achievement of Western CT  
835 Main Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
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The JA program was an excellent learning experience for me. I truly feel that I have gained a lot from participating in the program. It taught me skills that can be applied in the business world and beyond. I expanded my knowledge of business and learned about the importance of networking. Both of those learning lessons will help me achieve success in my career in the future.

Each week during the meetings of the business club at my high school, I had the opportunity to practice for the JA Titan Challenge. Although to some it might have seemed to be just a game, I truly saw the simulation as an opportunity to gain an insight into the world of business. At first, I familiarized myself with all of the terms that I had to make decisions about including price, production, marketing, capital investment, and research and development. Then after learning about what each of those words meant in a business context, the JA stimulation enabled me to discover how each of those factors affect a business. I observed how changing the price, production, marketing, capital investment, or research and development can lead to either success or failure. I also saw how those factors are all interconnected. In order for a business to work well, everything needs to work together. Thus, I learned that a good business decision involves the consideration of all parts that constitute the development and sale of a product. If in the future, I end up in a position where I will be required to make a choice about what a business should do, I will use this knowledge to select the most logical option.

In addition to learning about the components of making a business decision, the JA Titan Program also taught me about the importance of networking. I learned that effective networking requires brevity and good communication skills. A person should not spend a long amount of time speaking to someone at a networking event. It is easy to get comfortable with one person but the goal is to meet many people so brevity is key. Also, it is important to ensure that the person you spoke with remembers you so including an interesting fact about yourself is a good tactic to achieve this. During the networking part of the JA event, I applied those tips. I was brief while speaking to other students and to help them remember me, I mentioned that I moved to the U.S. from Poland in 2010. I will use what I learned at the Business Challenge many more times in the future. Having a good networking strategy will help me be successful at connecting with people in a professional setting.

Whether I end up working for a company or become an entrepreneur and start my own business, what I learned through the JA Program will help me achieve success. Although my current goal is to become a computer programmer, I cannot say for sure what my career path will look like. Perhaps I will end up working in business. For now, I can say that the JA program solidified my current choice. I enjoyed the technological aspect of the stimulation and thus I believe that I will be most satisfied working in technology.





**Martin J. Pascale, Jr.**  
Principal

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**Rachael Caggiano**  
Assistant Principal

November 27, 2017

Dear Admissions Counselor,

It is with sincere pleasure that I write this letter of recommendation for Kamil Drozdz. Kamil previously took my English I and English II Honors courses and is currently enrolled in my English IV Honors course. Kamil came to Derby High School as a quiet and timid young man that just needed a push. Through hard work, passing conversations, and a positive attitude, Kamil has become an outstanding student.

Kamil has grown as a learner in the classroom by improving his critical thinking and analyzing skills as well as developing his written abilities. He is the type of student who advocates for himself and shows interest in being successful in his education. With his mind constantly set on his goals, Kamil often meets with me to discuss his work before submitting. He does not second guess himself, but he wants to put his best work forward. During literature discussions this year, Kamil has always been the person to raise his hand to add to the conversation with direct quotations and evidence to support his response to questions as well as other students' responses. He enjoys being a part of the conversation and adding deeper connections to the literature that we read. I am confident that Kamil will continue to develop these attributes as he completes high school and looks forward to success at the college level.

Kamil is a rare student that I have had the privilege of teaching and getting to know over the past four years. He has taught me more than he knows. Coming to America from Poland, Kamil struggles with basic conversational language at times. He never gets embarrassed, but instead, he asks what it means, always hungry to learn more. Throughout the years, Kamil has taught me Polish traditions and words that we use in conversations with each other daily. He always takes time during the day to talk with me. This kindness will help him along the way as he moves on in his education.

Kamil's drive to succeed and hardworking personality is admirable. Any institution of higher education would be fortunate to gain him as a worthy and highly ambitious participant. I firmly believe that Kamil will be a success in his pursuits as he enters the next chapter of his life.

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Bell*

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Derby High School pursues **Academic** achievement, promotes creative and critical thinking, expects appropriate **Behavior** and fosters responsible **Citizenship**.

**"The ABC's of DHS"**



**Martin J. Pascale, Jr.**  
Principal

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**Rachael Caggiano**  
Assistant Principal

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Rebecca Bell  
English Department  
Derby High School  
Derby, CT

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