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Lavietes Scholarship Essay

Last May, I participated in the High School Heroes program through Junior Achievement and it was the best experience. I volunteered at Irving School in Derby, Connecticut, and taught an elementary class there about Personal Finance / Business Management topics. It was great seeing the students full of excitement and all happy sitting listening to me teach. It brought a smile to my face.

I was nervous at first to be a part of the High School Heroes program. However, the students made it a lot easier. They were patient with me and ready to learn. I was surprised at how sad the students were when I had to leave. They all gave me hugs and asked me to come back. It was my intention to participate in the High School Heroes program again this year and ideally teach the same students. I am really disappointed that the event is canceled.

Junior Achievement helped me learn to be more confident. The practice sessions and the experience in front of the students made me realize that I can be a public speaker. During the event, I was able to pick up on cues about the students' understanding of the lessons. The High School Heroes program also taught me leadership skills. I followed the teacher's procedure for classroom management. If the students started to get off track I clapped my hands and the students had to copy the same movements. I was in awe that they looked to me as a leader and got back on track to listen and focus.

The High School Heroes program also taught me that teaching is my dream job. I was thinking of teaching as a career before the program and the event proved to me that I can do it. I left the High School Heroes event satisfied with how happy I made the students. I realized that I can be an amazing teacher, like the teachers at Irving. I will be attending Bay Path University in the fall and studying education.