NEWS RELEASE

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Riedel Foundation Awards $10,000 for Hannibal Junior Achievement Classes

HANNIBAL, MO. — The Riedel Foundation has awarded a $10,000 grant to Junior Achievement (JA) to support financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship education for K-12 public and private school students in Hannibal.

The grant will help JA offer classroom-based experiences led by trained community volunteers. students gain practical skills in personal finance, career exploration, problem-solving, entrepreneurship, resume development, networking and interview preparation.

For the 2026-27 school year, Junior Achievement expects to serve approximately 1,200 students in five Hannibal elementary schools.

"We believe every student deserves access to educational experiences that help them build a successful future," said Junior Achievement District Manager Courtney Bareis. "This grant from the Riedel Foundation will help us provide meaningful learning opportunities that strengthen financial literacy, introduce career pathways and empower students to make informed decisions about their futures."

Junior Achievement staff work directly with school administrators and teachers each semester to coordinate classroom participation and recruit volunteers. Programs are typically delivered over five to eight weeks, ensuring students have meaningful engagement with educational content and community mentors. The organization's curriculum focuses on three key areas: financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship.

The grant comes at a time when financial literacy education remains limited in many schools. Through hands-on learning experiences, JA helps students understand concepts such as earning, saving, budgeting and spending while developing the confidence and skills needed for future success.

"The grant to Junior Achievement is a good fit for the Riedel Foundation," said Lead Trustee Michael Bukstein. "George Riedel was a banker, so he emphasized financial literacy. He also supported youth opportunities in Hannibal. This grant award combines both areas of interest."

The Riedel Foundation was established after the death of George H. Riedel in 2000. Since that time, the foundation has awarded approximately $7.5 million in grants to nonprofit organizations that serve Hannibal residents.

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Photo Caption: Riedel Foundation Lead Trustee Michael Bukstein presents a $10,000 grant award to Junior Achievement District Manager Courtney Bareis and future JA student Wrenlee.