



## NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:**

February 7, 2011

**For More Information, Contact:**

Tawnya Hambly  
Junior Achievement of the Heartland  
309-277-3911  
tawnya.hambly@ja.org

**JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT (JA) OF THE HEARTLAND WINS PRESTIGIOUS  
ECONOMIC EDUCATION GRANT**

*MetLife Foundation helps local JA students develop essential financial skills.*

*[Moline, IL]*— Junior Achievement of the Heartland announced today that it has received a grant to empower area high school students to acquire skills that will enable them to determine their future economic success, thanks to the generous sponsorship of MetLife Foundation.

Junior Achievement of the Heartland is one of only 16 JA operations worldwide to receive this year's MetLife Foundation grant to support the implementation of *JA Exploring Economics*<sup>®</sup>. The program, developed and piloted with a leadership grant from MetLife Foundation, helps make fundamental economic concepts both engaging and relatable for young adults. Participating students better understand the impact they have on the economy as consumers and taxpayers, and they learn important personal finance lessons around spending, saving and investing.

"MetLife Foundation and Junior Achievement share a commitment to preparing young people to succeed in the global economy. We are pleased to provide funding to help JA of the Heartland put young people on the path to success," said Dennis White, president and CEO of MetLife Foundation.

"Junior Achievement deeply appreciates MetLife Foundation's continued commitment to the development and implementation of *JA Exploring Economics*," said Junior Achievement of the Heartland President, Barbara VenHorst. "Through hands-on learning, Junior Achievement is empowering our youth to own their future economic success and giving them the competitive advantage they need to be productive employees and responsible citizens in our community."

**About JA Worldwide® (Junior Achievement)**

Junior Achievement is the world's largest organization dedicated to inspiring and preparing young people to succeed in a global economy. Through a dedicated volunteer network, Junior Achievement provides in-school and after-school programs for students which focus on three key content areas: work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. Today, 127 individual area operations reach more than four million students in the United States, with an additional 5.8 million students served by operations in 123 other countries worldwide. For more information, visit [www.ja.org](http://www.ja.org).

Locally, JA of the Heartland work with more than 56,000 students in 24 counties in eastern Iowa, western Illinois and southwestern Wisconsin, 3,700 volunteers from the business community and 260 schools and youth organizations. For more information, visit [www.jaheartland.org](http://www.jaheartland.org).

**About MetLife Foundation**

MetLife Foundation was established in 1976 by MetLife to carry on its longstanding tradition of corporate contributions and community involvement. Grants support health, education, civic and cultural programs. The Foundation has supported JA programs since 1979. In addition to sponsoring the Entrepreneurial Award since 2001, the Foundation has provided major funding for development and implementation of *JA Exploring Economics*®, a program that teaches high school students fundamental economic concepts. For more information about the Foundation, visit [www.metlife.org](http://www.metlife.org).