

## JA Student Becomes JA Professional



Pam Seaholm

*JA is a larger-than-life experience for young adults, and because I realize and value the difference it has made in my life, it motivates me to help in any way I can.*

Joining the Junior Achievement Company Program as a sophomore in high school was the most influential and significant decision I ever made. As a young achiever, I learned skills that continue to make me successful today.

While the JA Company Program certainly taught me about running a business, it was so much more to me. Participating in the JA program during high school helped me develop my ability to lead, and it gave me the confidence to work with other young leaders. It also taught me to work with a variety of businessmen and women. These developmental and significant experiences were not just gained through my active participation in the JA Company Program, but also while serving as Secretary of the Colorado JA Conference, and from attending and competing in conferences at the national level.

My participation in JA also helped me further my education. JA graciously offered me a 4-year half-tuition scholarship enabling me to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Business Management at the University of Denver as a full-time student, rather than being forced to attend part-time due to the overwhelming cost of higher education. I would never have had the same college experience if it weren't for JA.

Upon graduating, I was provided a unique opportunity to give back when I was hired to work at Junior Achievement in Denver. I used both my public speaking skills and my knowledge of working with a variety of people to help grow the Denver JA organization. This eventually gave me the confidence to move into a position in banking where I ultimately became a Senior Vice President overseeing 3 regional banks.

The impact of Junior Achievement on my life has been even more of a life-long experience than I could have imagined because of the friendship that I developed with my supervisor at the Denver Office, Frank McIntosh. Frank has been a key figure throughout my entire career helping me to build upon the things I learned as a young achiever. Little did I know, he would become a true life-long mentor and friend who has made a lasting impact on not only my life but also on the lives of my children.

*Knowing that it was through the generous donation of time and money of others that provided me the opportunity to participate in JA, I am now honored to give back through donations of my own. JA is a larger-than-life experience for young adults, and because I realize and value the difference it has made in my life, it motivates me to help in any way I can to give that experience to other young professionals.*