**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:** Kate Keverline, Associate, Communications

DECEMBER 17, 2018 202-777-4482/Kate.Keverline@JA.org

**2018 Junior Achievement Essay Competition Now Accepting Submissions**

*2018 Prompt Asks Students to Connect High School Experience to the Future*

**WASHINGTON** (DEC. 17, 2018) – Submissions for the 2018 Junior Achievement Essay Competition are now being accepted through February 15, 2019. This competition, sponsored by David M. Rubenstein, was founded in 2008 to provide promising students with funds to support their higher education.

Each year, students in grade 9-12 in the Greater Washington area are invited to submit a 1,000-1,500 word essay and compete for over **$110,000 in college scholarships.** In addition, the school in each of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia with the greatest number of eligible applications will receive a **$6,000 award**.

This year’s topic is:

**"What would make your high school experience more relevant to your future?**

“The Junior Achievement Essay Competition has been a catalyst for the success and financial security of many college-bound students,” said Ed Grenier, president of Junior Achievement of Greater Washington. “The competition cultivates incredible work from some of Greater Washington’s most talented scholars.”

For more information about the competition including official rules, student testimonials, and a link to the online application system, visit [www.JAEssay.org](http://www.JAEssay.org).

**About Junior Achievement of Greater Washington**

Since 1965, Junior Achievement of Greater Washington has inspired the next generation to be financially capable and tenacious, equipped with the tools to solve problems creatively, manage risk effectively, and welcome opportunity. Through our experiential financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship K-12 programs and capstone experiences taught by volunteer role models from the community, we inspire the next generation to answer the demands of the 21st century economy with “I can.” During the 2017-2018 school year, Junior Achievement of Greater Washington delivered its programs to 70,000 K-12 students throughout the region. In the last 50 years, Junior Achievement of Greater Washington has impacted the lives of more than one million young people in the District, Maryland and Virginia. Follow JAGW on Facebook, Instagram @juniorachievementdc, and Twitter @JA\_GW.

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