



Summary of Student Results
Teacher Survey Feedback and Recommendations
Exhibitor Feedback

December 14 - 15, 2022



JA Inspire®



Event Sponsors





Dear Friends,

Junior Achievement of Rhode Island is pleased to share with you the Student, Teacher, and Exhibitor Participation Summary of our 2022 JA Inspire program. This year, we were excited to have JA Inspire in-person, at the Rhode Island Convention Center, for the first time since 2019.

We would like to thank everyone who helped to re-launch this experience for our young people in Rhode Island. It was an extraordinary effort by all involved. A special thank you to our event sponsors – The Governor’s Workforce Board, PrepareRI, the Warren Alpert Foundation, Amgen, Cardi’s Furniture and Mattresses, and the Rhode Island Foundation for their support.

The work we have done over the last 18 months has helped lay the groundwork for the future of this program. In preparation, it was critical to our board that a comprehensive safety and security plan was put in place. We accomplished this task by creating a taskforce led by safety experts, education leaders, JA board members & staff, Convention Center staff, and the Providence Police Department. Thank you to the members of this taskforce for their insight and feedback.

With the resounding success of the 2022 event, we now look to the future of the program with a third day to reach more students, a more robust curriculum that will complement the Rhode Island ILP process, and increased opportunities for employers to introduce young people to career options.

Rhode Island continues to face labor market challenges, and we believe that there is no better time to help young people align their passion, talents, skills, and competencies to their future career. JA’s focus is to help students become work and career ready. We do this by helping them understand the relevance of what they are learning in school and how it connects to future success. We assist them in exploring their interests and talents as they relate to jobs and careers.

As you will see in the enclosed report, JA Inspire continues to show our 8th graders all the opportunities available to them right here in Rhode Island. This is because of the participation of our sponsors and exhibitors. Your partnership, and the opportunity it gives to our students, speaks volumes of your commitment to our young people, the community, and the future of Rhode Island’s workforce.

Our next JA Inspire program will take place over three days on November 14 - 16, 2023, at the Rhode Island Convention Center. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Janet Raymond".

Janet Raymond
Chairwoman of the Board

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lee Lewis".

Lee Lewis
President

Senior VP, Operations and Economic Development
Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce





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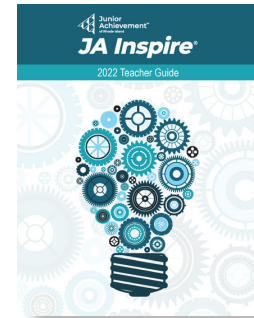
Chris Spolidoro
RI Convention Center

Cassi Steenblok
Junior Achievement



JA Inspire Program Overview

JA Inspire is more than a Career Exploration Fair, it brings together the business community and local middle schools and is designed to help launch these students into their futures: high school, college, and careers beyond. The program consists of three segments: 1) in-class sessions presented by the classroom teacher; 2) the hands-on JA Inspire expo; and 3) an in-class debrief. During the JA Inspire expo, students participate in hands-on activities, often using equipment or tools used on a job. The multi-hour experience is configurable to align with local industry, education, and career opportunities.



Topic	Overview	Students...
Careers and Personality	Students are introduced to the JA Inspire program and take a career interest inventory to discover what jobs suit their interests.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will better understand their career interests. • Will be able to identify top careers that align with their interests.
Industry Research	Students are introduced to the top industries in the country including Rhode Island's high-growth/high-demand industries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be introduced to the country's top 22 industry clusters. • Will be able to identify the high-growth/high-demand industries in Rhode Island
Exploring Careers	Students will explore and research careers that match their personalities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will research careers that fit their career type and learn about the earnings and benefits of these careers. • Identify Rhode Island companies that offer these careers.
Do You Have the Skills	Students need to know the skills and education requirements to be successful at a job. Students also prepare for the JA Inspire Career Exploration Fair.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn about the soft skills that all employers look for in the employees they hire. • Identify up to five companies they want to learn more about at the JA Inspire event. • Prepare questions to ask and practice asking them.
JA Inspire Career Exploration Fair	Students engage with business volunteers to learn about skills that will be in demand when they graduate. Students participate in hands-on activities, often using actual equipment or tools the businesses' employees use on the job.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand courses they need to take in high school. • Understand options for post-secondary education or industry training. • Learn about specific careers and the opportunities they present. • Understand how to chart a clear pathway to a career. • Become excited for their futures.
Reflection	Students reflect on what they have learned and identify next steps to further define their academic choices and career paths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement objective criteria to self-evaluate. • Recognize the value of constructive feedback and the growth mind-set. • Develop a personal action plan.

Participation Summary

Students: 4,535
Classes: 220
Schools: 26
School Districts: 13
Instructional Content Hours: 31,745
Exhibit Booths: 79
Mentors: 300+

Approximately **42%** of all Rhode Island 8th graders participated in JA Inspire.

Participating Schools

Independent/Charter

Founders Academy
Highlander Charter School
Segue Institute for Learning
Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts

Bristol Warren Regional School District

Kickemuit Middle School

Central Falls School District

Dr. Earl Calcutt Middle School

Cranston Public Schools

Hugh Bain Middle School

Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District

Exeter-West Greenwich Junior High School

Foster-Glocester Regional School District

Ponaganset Middle School

Johnston Public Schools

Nicholas A. Ferri Middle School

Little Compton Public Schools

Wilbur and McMahon School

Middletown Public Schools

Joseph Gaudet Middle School

North Providence School Department

Dr. E.A. Ricci Middle School

North Smithfield School Department

North Smithfield Middle School

Pawtucket School Department

Joseph Jenks Middle School
Lyman Goff Middle School
Samuel Slater Middle School

Providence Public Schools

Esek Hopkins Middle School
Gilbert Stuart Middle School
Governor Christopher Del Sesto Middle School
Nathan Bishop Middle School
Nathanael Greene Middle School
Roger Williams Middle School
West Broadway Middle School

Woonsocket Education Department

Hamlet Middle School
Villa Nova Middle School



Summary of Student Results

Pre- and Post-test Summary

Overall Pre-test average	42.83%
Overall Post-test average	47.33%

10.51%
Increase in
Test Scores

Knowledge Questions	Pre-test Average	Post-test Average	Difference
1. All high-demand jobs are also high wage.	53%	46%	-7%
2. Rhode Island has how many high-growth/high-demand industries?	31%	40%	+9%
3. Which of the career clusters below best reflects Rhode Island's high-growth/high-demand industries?	18%	21%	+3%
4. Personal abilities not directly related to a specific job, but needed in most jobs are called:	16%	39%	+23%
5. Researching jobs that interest you will help you to find:	70%	69%	-1%
6. Important soft skills that are valued by all employers are:	69%	69%	0%

Attitudinal Questions	Pre-test "Yes"	Post-test "Yes"	Difference
7. I have a career plan or am in the process of making a career plan.	67%	75%	+8%
8. I know of at least one career cluster that is a great match for my talents, abilities, and interests.	75%	83%	+8%
9. I have discussed my career interest(s) with someone close to me (family member, teacher, mentor, counselor, etc.)	73%	75%	+2%
10. I know how to connect my interests and skills to the world of work.	64%	69%	+5%
11. I know what soft skills are most important to an employer.	51%	70%	+19%
12. I felt prepared for my participation in the JA Inspire Career Exploration Fair.	54%	72%	+18%



Attitudinal Questions (cont'd.)	Post-Test "Yes"
I believe I have benefited from my participation in JA Inspire.	81%
The things I learned in JA Inspire will help me get a good job.	81%
The things I learned in JA Inspire will help me be successful in life.	79%
After participation in the JA Inspire Career Exploration Fair, I now have an interest in a STEM career.	47%
I feel I am better prepared to make an informed decision about my high school plans.	73%
JA Inspire made me aware of high-demand careers in Rhode Island.	69%
The career fair/expo introduced me to businesses that I didn't know about.	71%
I would recommend JA Inspire to a friend.	79%

Student Reflection Sheet

The responses below are student answers to questions on their Reflection Sheet in session five after participating in the career exploration fair. - "What job did you find that most matched your skills and interests." The responses are typed exactly as written by the student.

- Animal and plant science because one of my top jobs is a zoologist.
- Nursing/surgeon
- I found the 3D printer as something I could see myself doing.
- Cooking matches my skills and interests
- Electric Boat/welding
- I found that welding and construction matched my skills and interests.
- Forensic science/crime solving
- A job that I found that matched my skills and interests was eSports since I like playing games.
- Robotics and video game design.
- I found out that the Navy could be something that I might be good at.
- I found that the video game developer and the fire fighters as matching my skills.
- Carpenters Union Academy
- The cooking station - Tacos!
- Healthcare

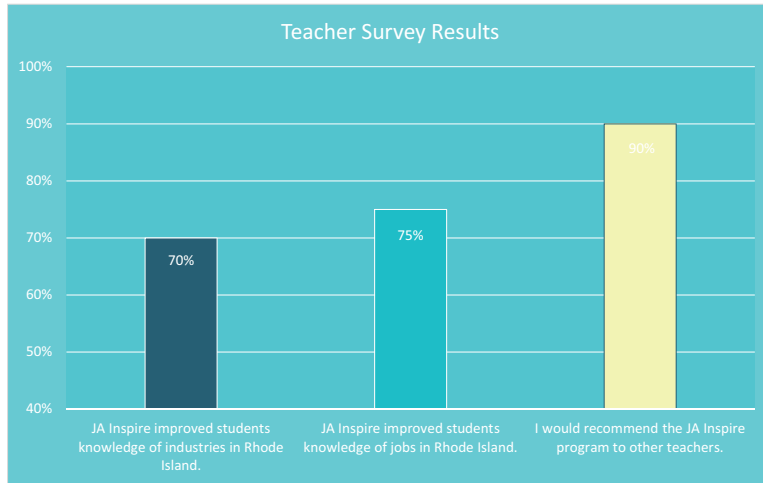
Student Reflection Sheet (cont'd)

The responses below are also student answers to questions on their Reflection Sheet. One student answers each pair of questions - **question #3 - “Describe which hands-on activity you enjoyed the most.”** and **question #4 - “What did you learn from the hands-on activity?”**



- Going inside the B.A.T. Mobile
- I learned what they do inside the mobile like how they arrest people and can look at finger prints.
- The controller and playing games at the NE Tech station.
- There are professional players in colleges.
- Welding or the fire fighters.
- Welding you have to be steady and the fire fighter uniforms are really hot and heavy.
- Drilling nails into dry wall.
- The more straighter you have your drill, and not at an angle, the more it will go in easier.
- I really like the little 3D propeller that I made.
- I learned about the process of gluing and how patient you need to be.
- The firefighters were the most enjoyable activity.
- It's an important job because it is needed every day.
- I enjoyed the VR welding hands-on activity.
- I learned how to do welding and how hard it is to do.
- The activity I liked the most was eSports at NE Tech.
- What I learned was that eSport is actually a job that anyone could do.
- I like construction and the police.
- I learned that police gear is super heavy.
- I liked the fire truck activity because you could see the inside of the truck and try on the uniforms.
- I learned that being a fire fighter is more than just putting out fires.
- I liked construction.
- I learned that you earn a lot of money and that they pay for your college.
- Fire fighter and crime investigator.
- You need to be strong and persistent.

Teacher Survey Feedback and Recommendations



90%

“I would recommend the JA Inspire program to other teachers.”

Question	Strongly Agree/ Agree	Neither Agree or Disagree	Strongly Disagree/ Disagree
1. The activities stimulated student participation.	75%	20%	5%
2. The content was age appropriate.	85%	10%	5%
3. The activities aligned well with the school curriculum.	45%	50%	5%
4. The JA Inspire classroom videos were easy to use.	70%	30%	0%
5. The JA Inspire classroom videos were helpful in preparing students for the JA Inspire Career Fair.	60%	35%	5%
6. The classroom videos were appealing to the students.	50%	45%	5%
7. JA Inspire improved students knowledge of jobs in Rhode Island.	75%	20%	5%
8. JA Inspire improved students knowledge of industries in Rhode Island.	70%	30%	0%
9. JA Inspire connected what is learned in the classroom to real life.	45%	55%	0%



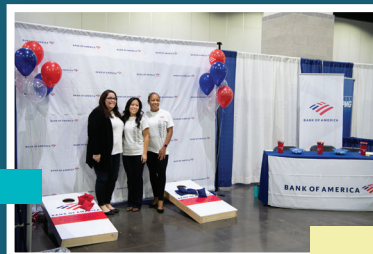
Teacher Survey Feedback and Recommendations (cont'd.)

“What was the highlight of your JA Inspire Experience?”

- The highlight of my JA Inspire experience was seeing my students engaged in learning more about industries they showed interest.
- I liked how all of the material was provided for you and the lessons were easy to follow.
- The students were really engaged at the actual event. Students liked talking with employers and other students (from different schools). Students also liked researching careers they were interested in, during the pre-work before the event.
- Seeing the students interact with representatives from a wide variety of different industries was great. They loved the hands-on approach and have been talking about it since the event.
- Proudly watching students interact with the adult exhibitors. Seeing the excitement when they received a stamp and/or a free goodie.
- Seeing students who are normally reserved during school, participate with the vendors.
- My students didn't want to leave!! It was great seeing them interact with careers that they weren't even thinking of to help them stimulate things that they will plan for themselves.
- It was engaging and extremely organized.

“Do you have any additional comments or suggestions?”

- It would be nice to have the exact date/time ahead of time so the schools can plan better. There was also a little confusion once we arrived with the bus driver and then going home we were short a bus. Overall, the program was great and we are looking forward to it next year. I am trying to get the high school to participate and have a table at the fair next year. Thank you for all of your hard work with this.
- I would like to see more displays of CTE/CTC programs for students to apply to for high school. They need to know that there's more options than their neighborhood school.
- It was difficult to stick with my group of students, as most of them had different interests. Next time, I would require them to buddy up and stick with at least one other student for the entirety of the fair. I also found that most of my students ran out of energy and motivation to continue to explore after about 1 hour. 90 minutes might be a bit too much time for exploration.



Exhibitors

Accounting/Finance/Insurance

Bank of America
Centreville Bank
Citizens Bank
Delta Dental of Rhode Island
Farmers Insurance
KPMG
Ponaganset High School – Business
Rhode Island Society of Certified Public Accountants
Rhode Island Student Loan Authority - College Planning Center
Tolman High School - Marketing & Management
Washington Trust

Agriculture/Aquaculture/Commercial Fishing

Ponaganset High School – Plant and Animal Science

Architecture/Engineering/Construction

Bowerman Construction
Dimeo Construction
IBEW Local #99 JATC
NEL/CPS Construction & Career Academy - Construction Technology
North Atlantic States Carpenters Training Fund
North Providence High School - Pre-Engineering
Ponaganset High School - Construction Management
Providence CTE - Welding/HVAC/Plumbing
Providence CTE - Carpentry/Electrical/GenCon
Providence CTE – Engineering
Rhode Island Builders Association - Residential Construction Workforce Partnership
Rhode Island Turnpike & Bridge Authority

Arts/Design/Communications

Cox Communications/Cox Business
Jacqueline Walsh School for the Performing Arts
Providence CTE - Graphics/Visual
Rhode Island Stage Ensemble

Automotive Trades/Marine Trades

North Providence High School - Marine Trades
Rhode Island Marine Trades

Bioscience/Health Careers/Medical Education

Amgen
Brown University - The Warren Alpert School of Medicine
CVS Health
EpiVax
Lifespan
Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island
New England Institute of Technology: Nursing and Health Science
North Providence High School - PTECH Health Science RI
Department of Health - Oral Health

RI Medical Imaging
Rhode Island Nursing Institute Middle College
Providence CTE – BioMedical
Providence CTE - Health Careers
Shea High School - Biomedical

Defense/Legal/Public Safety

Cranston Police Department
Hinckley Allen
Providence Fire Department
Providence Police Department
Providence CTE - Law & PS/JROTC
RI Army National Guard
Rhode Island State Police
United States Coast Guard
William E. Tolman High School – Marine JROTC
William E. Tolman High School – Law & Forensics

Energy/Information Technology/Science

Exeter-West Greenwich High School College & Career Pathways - Offshore Wind
Exeter-West Greenwich High School College & Career Pathways – IT/Computer & Data Science
New England Institute of Technology: IT and Video Game Design
North Providence High School - Computer Science
Orsted
Providence CTE - PTECH, Computer Science
Shanix Technology
Skills for Rhode Island's Future

Hospitality & Tourism

Johnson & Wales University
NEL/CPS Construction & Career Academy - Event Planning & Tourism
Newport Restaurant Group
Rhode Island Hospitality Association
Shea High School Culinary Arts

Human Services, Education & Training

Cardi's Furniture & Mattress
Charette Charter High School
Davies Career & Tech
Rhode Island College
The Met School

Manufacturing

General Dynamics Electric Boat
New England Institute of Technology: Manufacturing and Building Trades
Toray Plastics

Transportation & Logistics

RIPTA

Exhibitor Survey Feedback and Recommendations

Exhibitor Survey

- **I felt informed about the purpose of the program.** = 4.44/5 (89%)
- **I felt I received appropriate information.** = 4.38/5 (88%)
- **I felt I was able to share good information about my company with students.** = 4.56/5 (91%)
- **I felt I was able to share good information about myself with the students.** = 4.37/5 (87%)
- **The students were attentive and engaged.** = 4.12/5 (82%)
- **The JA staff were helpful.** = 4.61/5 (92%)
- **Did your booth set-up meet your requirements?** = 100% – Yes | 0% – No
- **Were you able to move-in and set-up your career station in a timely fashion?** = 100% – Yes | 0% – No
- **Next event is in November or December 2023 targeting approx. 6,000 students. Would you participate in a Career Fair over three half-days?** = 78% – Yes | 20% – Maybe | 2% – No

“What suggestions do you have to improve the JA Inspire Career Exploration Fair?”

- This would be a great format for juniors in high school as they look at school/work.
- Scheduled break for volunteers. We were constantly interacting with students and didn't want to leave the booth unattended. We would love an event with high school and/or college students. We are constantly recruiting them for our company.
- More example handouts - case study.
- Make it public and have the gov't , RIDE, DLT promote it with parents.
- More clear directions on how to find the loading dock and what dock services were available. Very well done overall JA team!
- I think moving to a 3-day model would help accommodate the traffic between exhibits and give exhibitors more time with students.
- I thought the event was executed incredibly well this year. The flow of the students seemed steady. And, I heard some other folks say they loved the holding area & bussing system. Love the improvements!
- A gender-neutral bathroom would be beneficial and supportive for vendors and visitors!
- You all did a great job from my viewpoint. Looking forward to next year!
- We suggest No sunglass giveaway, because we cannot see Kids eyes and would like to know if they are involved in the trade field, we are currently showing them or not; Thursday (2nd day) should be night show, the kids should bring their parents to the JA Inspire Career Fair; All schools have city/town t-shirts and school name on them, so we know what school the students are from.
- Keep up the outstanding work that you are doing by inspiring the future workforce. Thank you!









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Achievement™**
of Rhode Island

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