

Abigail Lynn
JASoCal Program Manager

MY JA STORY

My family is on its third generation of Junior Achievement in Loveland, Ohio! My mother participated in the Junior Achievement Company Program in the late 1950s. At that time, Junior Achievement was primarily focused on entrepreneurship and the skills needed to run a business. Her team designed, marketed and built a lantern, an experience she remembers to this day.

In the early 1990s I participated in Junior Achievement Business Basics. I was in fifth grade and the lessons were offered once a week during lunch. I vividly remember a lesson that simultaneously introduced the concept of an assembly line and highlighted the value of team work. Each student was given the parts to an ink pen and the instructions to put the pen back together. After a few rounds of practice, we timed ourselves. We then split into teams and each student was assigned one step in the pen-assembly process. Once again we practiced and timed the results. We discovered it was much easier and more efficient to work together - we were young Henry Fords! I've found myself working collaboratively ever since, including in my current position as a Program Manager at Junior Achievement SoCal.

Continuing the family Junior Achievement tradition, my nephew will be starting Global Marketplace this spring. He'll soon be learning the key aspects of the global economy, what makes trade work and how it affects his life. I know this will be done in a hands-on, experiential way and he will have his own lantern/pen lesson to carry with him through the years.

Knowing the impact JA has had in my family's life, I am proud to be a part of this tradition, and grateful that I am a part of starting the tradition in the lives of students in Southern California.