

To members of the JA Board,

I am happy to report that last week's JA Global Connection was a great success.

If you measure it by activities, we spent more than 12 hours a day for five days with our students, with workshops, lectures, panel discussions, team-building activities, business planning sessions and field trips to such places as Westfarms Mall, Yale University, Lake Compounce, Otis Test Tower and Rock Cats baseball.

If you measure it by publicity, we gathered more in a week than many nonprofits do in a year. Here is a link to an Associated Press story

http://m.apnews.com/ap/db_268748/contentdetail.htm?contentguid=O6FI8eEV – one to a story that appeared in Saturday's Courant

<http://www.courant.com/business/hc-junior-achievement-exchange-program-20150814-story.html>

and one to an article from ChinaDaily

http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2015-08/17/content_21620180.htm

And if you measure it by what it taught the 36 students involved, it clearly expanded their business understanding, widened their global vision and taught them the importance of creating friendships with overseas partners. Here's what one of the Wallingford students, Craig Cassella, said in a thank you note he sent off to our office when the program was over, "Everyone at the J.A. office inspired me a little bit more to keep trying harder to achieve my goals and obtain success. My favorite part of the week was when we were at Yale and got to meet and listen to the panel of entrepreneurs which I feel helped me a lot to understand what it is like to start a start up and be in the business world."

A huge thank you to all of the board members who attended the opening ceremony in the Hall of the House at the State Capitol last Monday, with special thanks to Ray Sprague of The Hartford, board vice chair, who extended a welcome on behalf of the board, and board member Jill Albertelli of Pratt & Whitney, who spoke on behalf of United Technologies Corp., the program's incredible presenting sponsor. Big thanks as well to board member Pam Sawyer, a former state representative, who helped arrange the ceremony and gave the students valuable background on our government and the Capitol; and to board member Anne Evans of the US Department of Commerce who, with her staff, provided two workshops to the students on global trade.

Thanks as well to so many board members whose companies provided lovely gifts for the students. The students were both impressed by the quality and quantity of goodies and extremely appreciative of board members' thoughtfulness.

Last, please know the program went off with barely a hitch and that is testimony to the great work of Mary Goetter of International Education Services, our consultant on the project, and the entire JA staff, all of whom were involved in some way in making the weeklong program a success.

All the best,

Lou

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