



January 2026



Kicking Off 2026 Strong with Debbie Smith CTE Academy Students

Junior Achievement and Debbie Smith CTE

Academy partnered together for the day to deliver two JA programs for high school students to kick off the year.

One of the programs was a JA Inspire career fair on the campus. The students were encouraged to interact with dozens of local business representatives in an entertaining way through a game of bingo. Many fun and interesting questions were on their game card to spark questions such as relating to career paths, workplace culture, why someone chose that job, and even find leads on summer positions they may wish to apply for.

The second program was delivered in the classrooms to students by JA volunteers. Through a curriculum called JA Company Program Pop-Up, students learned the practical skills required to plan, launch, and operate their own business venture within a structured, interactive, real-world lesson.

Both programs were a resounding success with the students, volunteers, business representatives, and faculty all agreeing they enjoyed the experience.

Here are highlights from the day:

- Served **694 students** across the event
- Hosted **42 tables** representing a wide range of industries, including:
 - Business and industry professionals
 - Military representatives
 - Universities and community colleges

- Volunteers from **Microsoft, Intuit, Bank of America, and Oscultav** taught Junior Achievement's Company Program Pop-Up in 22 classrooms
 - Through the Company Program Pop-Up, students learned:
 - How businesses are started and organized
 - The roles and responsibilities within a company
 - How teamwork, leadership, and decision-making contribute to business success
 - Basic concepts of entrepreneurship, innovation, and problem-solving
- Students learned about **Debbie Smith**, her impact, and her inspiring traits
- Students created a collage highlighting Debbie Smith's qualities and values
- A citizenship ceremony was held as part of the day
- Local leaders were present, including Jill Tolles and Joe Ernst, and participated in the event

We look forward to delivering this powerful experience again at Debbie Smith CTE Academy in 2027!





JOIN US! Our First 2026 Fundraising Event

You're invited to join Junior Achievement of Northern Nevada for our **Annual Bowl-A-Thon** at the **Grand Sierra Resort**, and this year's theme is **NEON!**

Get ready for a super fun day of bowling, bright colors, and community impact.

Bring your best glow gear because we'll be hosting a **Neon Costume Contest** with a prize for the **Best Neon Team Costume**—so go big, go bold, and go bright!

Here are the details:

Location: Grand Sierra Resort (GSR)

Date: February 7, 2026

Time: 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Theme: Dress to dazzle—our theme is NEON and we're ready to **GLOW!**

Costume Contest: Prize for Best Neon Team



Team Entry: \$500 for a team of five

There are **two easy ways to pay** your team entry fee:

1. Pay the \$500 team fee, or
2. Sell raffle tickets to cover your entry ([contact us](#) to obtain the tickets)

- Tickets are **\$20 each**
- If your team sells **25 tickets**, your **\$500 entry is covered**

And don't forget—the **raffle grand prize** is a **vacation package at the GSR!**

Click this link to learn more. We can't wait to see your neon spirit lighting up the lanes! 

Sign Up Today!



Junior Achievement Triple Crown Experience Ticket

Love a good deal? You can get one AND help help us with our **2026 GOAL to DOUBLE OUR IMPACT?**

If so, here's how to do it before time runs out!

Each year we host three fundraising events which raise a significant portion of our funding used to deliver JA programs to thousands of students across our 13-

county service area. This year, we are offering a **LIMITED** number of Triple Crown Experience Tickets -- an all-access pass to our three events: our Bowl-A-Thon, Golf Tournament, and Leaders and Legends Luncheon. Instead of paying separately throughout the year, a **ONE-TIME** purchase secures your seat with a discount of \$350 when purchased in this bundle.

Time is running out. And only 36 are available. [**Get your tickets now**](#) and save the date for each event. Help us expand in 2026 while you and your teams enjoy these fun-filled events.

THANK YOU to Our Newest Community Partners



Mike Hix, President of MeadowsBank, delivered a little Christmas Cheer with a BIG Check presented to our President,



Columbia Bank kicked off 2026 with a BIG check through their Community Impact Fund. We are thrilled they are

Len Stevens. This contribution sponsored one of our 5th grade classes competing in our BizTank Entrepreneurship competition. THANKS, Mike and MeadowsBank, for investing in our local youth!

committed to help us deliver financial literacy to more kids this year with this gift. THANKS, Columbia Bank, for inspiring students to achieve their full potential!

In Case You Missed It...

Our President, Len Stevens, recently gave an interview about Junior Achievement which aired on all local Cumulus Media Stations. [Here's the episode.](#) Shout out to Cumulus Media for this generous opportunity.

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