Junior Achievement of Western Pennsylvania has inspired and prepared more than 2.5 million children since our founding in 1939 thanks to the generous support of the local business community and tens of thousands of volunteer mentors. Each year, our organization brings life lessons in entrepreneurship, workforce readiness and financial literacy to students in classrooms, afterschool and summer programs across our region. In the past year alone, Junior Achievement has positively and directly impacted over 73,000 students throughout western Pennsylvania.

Recently, our organization honored four individuals and one organization that embody the true spirit of enterprise we instill in our region’s young people. At this year’s Spirit of Enterprise Awards with the help of our presenting sponsor, Covestro LLC, we honored Kevin Miller, Murry Gerber, Ray Buehler, Mona Pappafava-Ray and Kennametal (represented by Dr. Robert Clemens).

In the following pages, you will find motivational stories about these inspiring individuals who have surpassed expectations to serve as examples of innovation, persistence, business excellence and community-mindedness and instill in the young people of this region the fortitude to overcome challenges and achieve success.

Our ability to inspire and prepare some of our community’s most successful entrepreneurs, business and civic leaders can be demonstrated by our distinguished alumni and exceptional partners. For that, we are grateful to all of our supporters and volunteers who are amazing leaders for our region’s youth and we say THANK YOU!

Sincerely,

Dennis P. Gilfoyle
President and CEO
Junior Achievement of Western PA
On Wed., Nov. 11, 2015, Junior Achievement hosted the Junior Achievement Spirit of Enterprise Dinner & Awards Ceremony at the Westin Convention Center Hotel in downtown Pittsburgh.

The event honors individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to this region. The chosen laureates exhibit strong leadership, an entrepreneurial spirit and adhere to the highest levels of ethical principles.

Each of the honorees met with a Junior Achievement high school student several weeks prior to the event for an interview. The students prepared questions and used the information and experiences the honorees shared with them to write an introduction that was later read on stage the night of the event.

Each student had a very special and unique experience with his or her honoree. They were able to work with and create a relationship with some of the most powerful and influential men and women in Pittsburgh, taking away inspiration to help them achieve anything they set their mind to.

In 1975, Raymond W. Buehler, Jr. began his career with Schneider Downs, joining a small firm in Pittsburgh noted for its caring corporate culture and steadfast commitment to its client base. Buehler has now worked for the company for 40 years—rising from staff accountant to shareholder to president and CEO and now serves as chairman of the firm. Along the way, Buehler has earned a reputation as a business leader, family man, community volunteer and philanthropist.

Under Buehler’s leadership, Schneider Downs has enjoyed enduring growth, elevating revenues from $4 million in 1987 to more than $65 million in 2015. Employment at Schneider Downs has grown during his tenure, reflecting both steady growth and the addition of new services and business units. As president, Buehler set the direction for the firm, including expanding its market and growing the firm’s core service offerings to include Schneider Downs Wealth Management, Schneider Downs Corporate Finance, Schneider Downs Staffing and Schneider Downs Meridian. Honoring his commitment to the profession, CPA Magazine recognized Buehler as one of its 100 Most Influential Practitioners.

Buehler also is active within the community, serving on the board for United Way of Allegheny County, Vincentian Collaborative System, and with his wife, Kathy, serving the as co-chairs of the Homeless Children’s Education Fund Champions for Children Event. Buehler is an active member of the Notre Dame Club of Pittsburgh and the World President’s Organization. He also speaks fondly of his days as a girls’ softball coach in Upper St. Clair, which yielded more time with his daughters Lindsay and Kathleen.
With only a backpack full of clothes, Murry Gerber and a fearless friend rode his 10-speed bicycle from Chicago to Rock Island – 180 miles in three days – in order to attend college at Augustana in Illinois.

This accomplishment is even more impressive considering that going to college is something of a rarity when coming out of Gerber’s inner city high school in Chicago. Dedication to his studies and a strong belief in himself led Gerber to much professional success. His student presenter for the Spirit of Enterprise event, Andre, said that he learned from Murry to help people and inspire change.

A geologist by education, Gerber began his career with Shell Oil in Houston, Texas. He advanced in his field to become the treasurer of Shell Oil and later the chief executive officer of Coral Energy, LLP. In 1998, Murry moved to Pittsburgh, Pa., to become the CEO and board chairman of EQT, Inc., a natural gas exploration and drilling company. In 2010, Gerber retired from this position to focus his efforts on promoting the use of natural gas in America. In 2011, Murry and his wife, Cindy, became the first people to travel across the United States in a dedicated natural gas vehicle.

Gerber is currently an active member of many corporate and civic boards throughout the United States. In addition to his work with the Cindy and Murry Gerber Foundation, he is an enthusiastic supporter of his children’s sporting and academic interests.
Kevin Miller describes himself as a JA kid and attributes Junior Achievement to exposing business to him at an early age. Miller graduated from Pine Richland and went on to attend Saint Francis University. Miller was an intern at Northwestern Mutual during his senior year; after graduating, he became a full-time representative.

Miller became a field director in Pittsburgh and built his field unit into one of the top units in the country. He joined Northwestern Mutual’s home office in November of 2004. In 2007, he was appointed the managing Partner in Pittsburgh. Under the leadership of Miller, the Network grew in representatives and cash value. Miller and his team have been recognized by Northwestern Mutual as multiple Growth, Team and Achievement Award qualifiers as well as by GAMA International as a Master Agency which recognizes the top 250 organizations in the industry.

Miller is a board member of The First Tee of Pittsburgh and a trustee of Saint Francis University. He is also a member of the Tocqueville Society of The United Way of Allegheny County. In 2014, Miller and his associates raised more than $150,000 for The United Way. He has also served as chair of Junior Achievement’s Annual Campaign for both the 2015 and 2016 campaigns. When asked where he will be in five years, Miller says, “In five years, I will still be the managing partner at Northwestern Mutual and leading our team and living our mission of guiding impacting and transforming our communities.”
Monena Pappafava-Ray started working at General Carbide Corporation in 1986 at the age of 22. She is a Carnegie Mellon University graduate and worked her way through the ranks of her company, having worked in all areas of the plant and office.

In 1993, she was named president of General Carbide Corporation based in Greensburg, Pa. Pappafava-Ray also is the owner and president of PremaTech Advanced Ceramics located in Worcester, Mass. Throughout her career, she has received numerous awards, including the “Diamond Award” by the Pittsburgh Business Times, which honors the region’s top CEOs and presidents, the “Women in Business Award,” “Pittsburgh Business Ethics Award” and the “Smart Business Award.” She was also a finalist in the “Entrepreneur of the Year Award” in addition to being a finalist in the “Manufacturer of the Year Award”.

Pappafava-Ray is listed on The Girl Scouts of Westmoreland Wall of Fame recognizing her achievements as a “Woman of Distinction” and is a member of the World President’s Organization. She has been featured in several articles in manufacturing magazines and in newspapers and serves on several boards. Most recently, her own staff awarded her with her own “GOLD STAR QUALITIES” award, with some of her star qualities being: determined, visionary, strategic thinker, strong leader and persuasive, to name a few. She is a wife, mother, elder in her church as well as a savvy businesswoman and entrepreneur.

Kennametal was represented by Dr. Robert Clemens, vice president and chief technical officer of the top manufacturer. Dr. Clemens is responsible for leading Kennametal’s global research, development and engineering organization. He has more than 35 years of experience in technology, innovation and manufacturing.

Employees such as Dr. Clemens have supported Kennametal in staying at the forefront of advanced materials innovation for more than 75 years, delivering cutting-edge solutions that shape the world. They take materials and manufacture tools and systems that help their customers cut everything from metal to titanium to mines and roadways. These tools and solutions help companies like BMW, Boeing, Halliburton and Caterpillar. More than 13,000 of Kennametal’s employees help their customers make the world’s work possible.

To be a leader in the industry means being a leader in the community. It is this mentality that sets Kennametal apart.

Each year, the Kennametal Foundation provides funds toward technical education in engineering and manufacturing technologies to address the skills gap. Workforce development is important and the company offers student employment, internships, cooperative work/study plans and apprenticeships. The Kennametal Knowledge Center provides expert instruction on application of the company’s technologies to customers, distributors and employees.

Kennametal employees are proud of its long tradition of supporting communities and partnering with non-profit organizations to tackle local volunteer projects. Kennametal’s great promise that with its employees and the knowledge and expertise they bring to serve their customers, communities and everyone invested in their future.

MONA PAPPAAFAVA-RAY
ENTREPRENEURIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

KENNAMETAL
IMPACT COMPANY OF THE YEAR
Covestro LLC is proud to continually support the efforts of Junior Achievement, and we are honored to serve as presenting sponsor of the Spirit of Enterprise Dinner and Awards Ceremony. What makes Junior Achievement such a special partner to us at Covestro is our shared belief that children are our most precious resource. Explained simply, “The mission at Covestro is to make the world a brighter place.” We fulfill this vision by inspiring innovation and driving growth through profitable technologies and products that benefit society and reduce environmental impacts.

The programming that Junior Achievement provides is inspiring thousands of young people throughout western Pennsylvania to reach their full potential, giving them the skills to one day help Covestro fulfill our mission. And whether it is through volunteer mentorship or financial giving, Covestro is proud to be a part of it.

Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to serve as Dinner Chairperson and Presenting Sponsor. On behalf of Covestro, we look forward to working with you to make an ongoing difference in the lives of children across western Pennsylvania.

Jim Chrise
Senior Vice President and General Manager,
Covestro LLC
Dinner Chairman, Junior Achievement
Spirit of Enterprise Dinner and Awards Ceremony
JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
would like to thank all of our outstanding sponsors for the 28th Annual Spirit of Enterprise Dinner and Awards
Ceremony. On behalf of our organization and the more than 73,000 students we serve,

THANK YOU!

MEDIA SPONSOR

Pittsburgh

Presented by

PLATINUM SPONSORS:
EQT, i+IconUSA

GOLD SPONSORS:
Carbide Concepts, General Carbide, Highmark, Jones Day, MSA, Northwestern Mutual, PPG, Schneider Downs, UPMC, Wabtec

SILVER SPONSOR:
Kennametal, U. S. Steel

BRONZE SPONSORS:
AT&T, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, Federated Investors, First Commonwealth Bank, Huntington Bank, Klaber Group, PITT OHIO, PNC, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Dr. Richard White, Tristate Capital