

Walt Disney Imagineer Earns Junior Achievement Top Volunteer Award

ORLANDO, FLA., September 26, 2011 – Junior Achievement of Central Florida chose Jack Blitch, vice president and general manager of Walt Disney Imagineering-Florida, from 171,000 U.S. volunteers as winner of the organization’s highest award for volunteerism, the Gold Leadership Award.

“The local business community has been extremely supportive of JA’s goal of inspiring local students to succeed in the new global economy,” said Craig Polejes, president of [Junior Achievement of Central Florida](#).

“Jack Blitch is a remarkable example of that spirit of generosity. In a very real way, he helps Central Florida JA students develop financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work-readiness skills, contribute to the community and participate in the revitalization of the economy.”

The Gold Leadership Award honors volunteer excellence and recognizes participation and leadership in supporting and expanding JA’s impact on students, resources and/or operational excellence and sustainability.

“I’m honored to accept this award on behalf of all the Junior Achievement volunteers worldwide,” Blitch said. “They share my passion for bringing free enterprise into the classrooms and helping our children become future leaders.”

Blitch received his award during the recent Junior Achievement USA “Day on the Hill” event on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. The event gives local JA leaders the opportunity to meet with congressional leaders and staff to discuss the organization’s leadership in empowering young people to own their economic success in the global marketplace.

In 2000, Blitch served on the JA of Osceola board, and he has been a member of the JA of Central Florida board since 2003. Last year, he gave a presentation on innovation at the JA-USA National Leadership Conference in Boston.

Blitch has been an integral part in helping found the JA Academy, a new magnet leadership program slated to debut at Oak Ridge High School in Orange County in the fall of 2012. He has also raised money and recruited new companies to participate in Bowl-A-Thon, JA’s largest fundraiser.