

March 27, 2023, EDMONTON, AB

NEWS RELEASE - JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT ANNOUNCES BUSINESS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES and INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

Junior Achievement is pleased to announce its 2023 Northern Alberta Business Hall of Fame inductees and recipient of its annual Innovator Award.

These inspiring, accomplished, community minded entrepreneurs are selected annually by a committee of previous JA Hall of Fame inductees (<https://janorthalberta.org/laureates/>) who review nominations from the community in a rigorous process overseen by Grant Thornton LLP.

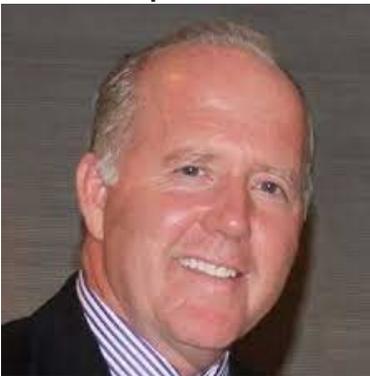
**BRENT HESJE,
Executive Chair,
Fountain Tire**



**YASMIN JIVRAJ,
Co-Owner, Director
Dexcent Inc.**



**BLAINE MACMILLAN,
President & CEO,
Cowan Graphics Inc.**



**ANGUS WATT,
Senior Investment Advisor,
National Bank Financial,
Angus Watt Advisory Group**



These remarkable business and philanthropic luminaries and the Innovator of the Year, will be recognized at the 43rd annual JA Northern Alberta Business Hall of Fame gala celebration in Edmonton on Thursday October 26th, 2023.

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2023 INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

The recipient of Junior Achievement's Innovator Award demonstrates dynamic leadership that drives economic impact, community initiatives and empowers their peers as a respected role model. This award is determined by a selection committee of JA's Board of Directors.

**KRISTINA WILLIAMS,
President & CEO,
Alberta Enterprise Corporation**



Tickets to the 2023 Northern Alberta Business Hall of Fame dinner support Junior Achievement programs and are available for purchase now at: www.janorthalberta.org

\$1 INVESTED IN JA RETURNS \$45 TO SOCIETY.

Proceeds from the Hall of Fame gala will support JA programs that inspire and teach youth entrepreneurship, financial literacy and work readiness. JA is delivered by trained volunteers from local business communities and is free of charge for teachers, youth organizations, parents and youth. JA equips students to succeed in their personal finances, careers, and the global economy. They also start and run more successful companies than those who do not receive JA programming. (Boston Consulting Group 2010)

ABOUT JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT NORTHERN ALBERTA & NWT

JA Northern Alberta & NWT was launched in 1964, brought to this region in part by Stan Melton, founder of Melcor, who recognized JA provided young people with real world skills and knowledge necessary to succeed.

As a chapter of JA Canada and JA Worldwide, we teach youth from Grades 3 to age 25 three key pillars for success in business and in life – financial literacy, work readiness and entrepreneurship. Half day programs are delivered in schools by volunteer mentors from the local business community, filling a critical gap in the current school curriculum.

JA's "Company Program" for high school students may be taught by teachers in schools, or by volunteer mentors who lead an 18 week after school program for young people who sign up for it as an extra-curricular activity. In both, young people learn how to start, run and close a business, and donate a portion of their revenues back to their communities. The western Canadian founders of food delivery app, 'Skip The Dishes' are our most famous mentors. The volunteered with Company Program then decided to launch their *own* business!

All Junior Achievement programs have improved the outcomes for countless youngsters who go on to graduate high school and post-secondary studies more often than non-JA students. As adults, they have less household debt, are more likely to attain middle and senior management positions and when they start companies, they hire more staff and create more revenue.

**Boston Consulting Group 2010*

CONTACTS

For more information or for 2023 inductee interviews, please contact:

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