#KINDLEE COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

BY CHRISTINA HARRIS SCHWINN, ESQ.

JA's annual Law Day inspires future leaders

As a high school student in Reno, Nevada, I was president of a Junior Achievement “company” that successfully launched a new product. That experience was life-changing and sparked my early interest in business law, and it also laid the foundation for my desire to help students find their passion through Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida’s annual Law Day.

Inspired by Junior Achievement’s job shadow opportunities, which allow students to see firsthand what it would be like to work in certain fields, the Law Day program provides students with an inside look into law-related careers.

This February, Law Day escorted 50 local high school students on a free tour of the Lee County Justice Center, where they observed the justice system in motion, met with legal professionals and learned about the field of law in a professional environment.

Law Day began with a presentation by Clerk of Court Linda Doggett and a tour of the Clerk’s office, followed by a tour of the jail and concluding with a panel discussion led by three Honorable 20th Judicial Circuit Judges. The event introduced students to various career paths and processes, providing a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the courthouse system and the multitude of professional opportunities available.

The program provides opportunities for students to interact with and learn from business leaders who are working within the industry today, and it touches students’ lives in many ways. Some decide that day that they want to become lawyers, law enforcement officers or even judges.

Students learn relevant information that will help direct their decision-making process throughout their lives. Law Day is just one of the many ways Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida prepares up-and-coming leaders for success, providing impactful opportunities to impart wisdom on the next generation of business professionals as they develop a road map for their future career paths.

Christina Harris Schwinn is a partner at Pavese Law Firm and past chair of the Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida board of directors. To learn more about Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida and its programs, visit www.JASWFL.org, call 239-225-2590 or email info@jaswfl.org.