Utah Senate Candidate Mitt Romney Joins JA in Helping Utah Students Dream Big at JA-in-a-Day at Edison Elementary

JA-in-a-Day provides the 5-6 JA in-class lessons in a one-day format, rather than the traditional method of lessons being spread out over the course of several weeks.

Sponsored by Delta Air Lines, this past May we held a very special JA-in-a-Day with VIP community and business leaders who joined together to mentor students at Edison Elementary. Edison Elementary is a Title I school in the Salt Lake City School District where more than 90% of students live below the poverty level. JA in-class programs are vital to these students and expose them to concepts supporting the three pillars of Junior Achievement: work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy. Concepts to help open their eyes to all that is possible for their future; possibilities beyond what they may see in their everyday lives, not only through our curriculum but through the experience, mentorship and caring of our volunteers.

This year we had the privilege of welcoming Utah Senate Candidate Mitt Romney to the elite group of JA volunteers at Edison. Not only did he present JA lessons about entrepreneurship to a 4th grade classroom, but he found time to sit for school lunch with the students in the cafeteria.

It was fun to be in the classroom full of kids. What was interesting to me was when we talked about the personal qualities they each possessed that might lead them into entrepreneurship, and every student believed that creating new ideas was something they were good at. That's just part of the American culture; we all think we have great ideas. The students came up with business ideas right there in the classroom and it was pretty impressive.

Junior Achievement’s mission is helping our young people understand the fundamentals of business and entrepreneurship and having students recognize that it is fine to go out and work for someone else, but it is also fine to start a business of your own, I think that kind of perspective is helpful for our young people.

-Mitt Romney