



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Renea Gates  
rgates@jaindy.org  
317-252-5900 x10

**2021 Indy's Best and Brightest Winners Announced**

*More than 600 community leaders virtually attended Junior Achievement's Indy's Best & Brightest event, presented by KPMG LLP*

INDIANAPOLIS (March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021)— On Thursday, March 11<sup>th</sup> Junior Achievement of Central Indiana virtually recognized 100 of the city's most outstanding young professionals, age 40 and under. All 100 individuals were recognized for their professional success and philanthropic impact on our community. Of the 100 honorees, 10 received additional recognition as an Indy's Best and Brightest winner from their respective category.

Junior Achievement was honored to have Rafael Sanchez, Morning News Anchor and Investigative Reporter with WRTV, and an 8<sup>th</sup> grade JA Student Ambassador serve as the event emcees. Max Yoder, Co-Founder & CEO of Lessonly; Jennifer Burk, President and CEO of Junior Achievement; Eric Sutphin, Managing Partner, KPMG, LLP; and an additional 8<sup>th</sup> grade JA Student Ambassador also shared remarks at the event.

**2021 Indy's Best and Brightest Winners:**

ACCOUNTING

Bud Graessle – Vice President, Treasury and Financial Planning and Analysis, OneAmerica Financial Partners

BANKING & FINANCIAL SERVICES

Molly Mclver – VP, Senior Program Manager, Capital Group

EDUCATION & NONPROFIT

Frederick Yeakey – Vice President, Providence Cristo Rey High School

GOVERNMENT

Ronnie Saunders III – Firefighter & Freelance Web Designer, Indianapolis Fire Department

HEALTH & LIFE SCIENCES

8395 Keystone Crossing, Suite 102  
Indianapolis, IN 46240  
Phone: 317-252-5900  
Website: [www.jaindy.org](http://www.jaindy.org)



Terri Lee – Director, Office of Women’s Health, Indiana State Department of Health

LAW

Melissa Macchia – Partner, Taft Law

MANUFACTURING, RETAIL & SERVICES

Dan Abeln – VP, Marketing Analytics and Data Science, ADT (formally DEFENDERS)

MEDIA, SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Duchess Adjei – Head of Global Communications, Beckman Coulter Life Sciences

REAL ESTATE, DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION

Shane Hageman – President, Hageman Group

TECHNOLOGY

Nick Smarrelli – CEO, GadellNet Consulting Services

Indy’s Best & Brightest was filmed at JA BizTown. Photos taken from the socially distant event are below.



**JA student ambassador and Rafael Sanchez, Morning News Anchor/Investigative Reporter, WRTV**

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**JA student ambassador and Jennifer Burk, President and CEO of Junior Achievement of Central Indiana**

**About Indy's Best and Brightest**

The Best and Brightest initiative was created by Junior Achievement of Central Indiana to recognize rising talent and the next generation of leaders in our community. Honorees in each category were evaluated on professional accomplishments, civic involvement, and leadership qualities. Please visit [www.indysbestandbrightest.org](http://www.indysbestandbrightest.org) to view the complete list of finalists.

**About Junior Achievement of Central Indiana**

Junior Achievement of Central Indiana, Inc. (JACI), in partnership with the business and education communities, empowers young people to own their future success. JA educates and inspires young people in the areas of career exploration, employability/life skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy and philanthropy through hands-on, experiential learning opportunities for children in kindergarten through high school. [www.jaindy.org](http://www.jaindy.org)

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