

## Circle and Junior Achievement of Northern California Award Ten \$5,000 Scholarships to High School Seniors Embracing Digital Finance

**SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – April 26, 2024** – Circle Internet Financial, a global fintech leader and issuer of USDC, and Junior Achievement (JA) of Northern California, a renowned non-profit championing youth economic empowerment, today announced the awarding of ten \$5,000 scholarships to graduating high school seniors across Northern California. The Circle Scholars program recognizes students demonstrating a passion for learning about cryptocurrency and blockchain technology through participation in the innovative Digital Financial Literacy Curriculum.

The recipients of the Circle Scholars program represent the following high schools across Northern California:

- Dozier-Libbey Medical High School, Antioch
- Carlmont High School, Belmont (2 students)
- Sequoia High School, Redwood City
- Livermore High School, Livermore
- Aspire Lionel Wilson Prep High School, Oakland
- San Ramon Valley High School, San Ramon
- Madera South High School, Madera
- Abraham Lincoln High School, San Francisco (2 students)



*Circle Scholars shine bright at the recent Business Hall of Fame event, proudly displaying their well-deserved certificates.*

### Circle's Pioneering Partnership Approach:

The Circle Scholars program marks a groundbreaking partnership model for Circle. **Beyond financial support, Circle has actively participated in crafting the curriculum, collaborating with JA of Northern California on content development and fostering ongoing connections with students interested in Web3 careers.**

### Quotes Highlighting Impact:

“We are truly heartened by the positive impact of our partnership with Junior Achievement of Northern California in empowering students with digital financial knowledge and growth opportunities,” shared **Mercina Tillemann-Perez, VP of Circle Impact at Circle**. “As these bright individuals continue their educational pursuits, we look forward to witnessing their accomplishments and cheering them on.”

**Cristene Burr, President, and CEO (Chief Executive Officer) of Junior Achievement of Northern California, echoed this sentiment, stating:** “This scholarship program exemplifies the transformative power of collaboration. By combining Circle’s financial expertise with JA’s reach and curriculum development experience, we are equipping students with the knowledge and resources to thrive in the evolving digital economy.”

### **Background on the Digital Financial Literacy Curriculum:**

Previously launched in August 2023 (details available in prior press release: [Link to prior press release announcing the program]), the Digital Financial Literacy Curriculum equips high school students with a comprehensive understanding of digital financial concepts. This two-part program delves into the history and applications of money, Bitcoin, blockchain technology, NFTs, and stablecoins.

The program received outstanding feedback during its pilot run with JA of Northern California summer interns, achieving a 4.1 out of 5 rating with 92% of participants recommending it as a valuable resource for high schoolers and young adults.

### **Scholarship Program Details:**

The Circle Scholar awards provide financial support to graduating seniors who have completed the Digital Financial Literacy Curriculum and shown exceptional interest in digital finance. Financial need is also a consideration for this award.

### **Availability and Resources:**

The Digital Financial Literacy Curriculum remains available to high schools throughout Northern California. Teachers and students can learn more about the program and scholarship opportunities by contacting JA of NorCal at [info@janorcal.org](mailto:info@janorcal.org).

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### **About Circle**

Circle is a global financial technology firm that enables businesses of all sizes to harness the power of digital currencies and public blockchains for payments, commerce, and financial applications worldwide. Circle is the issuer of USDC and EURC - highly liquid, interoperable, and trusted money protocols on the internet. Circle’s open and programmable platform and APIs

make it easy for organizations to run their internet-scale business, whether it is making international payments, building globally accessible Web3 apps or managing their internal treasury. Learn more at <https://circle.com>.

### **About Junior Achievement of Northern California (JA)**

Junior Achievement of Northern California, established in 1950, is part of the world's largest organization dedicated to educating students about financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and work readiness through experiential, hands-on programs. For the third year in a row, Junior Achievement has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. For over a century, JA has operated in areas of political instability, violence, and war, helping youth build entrepreneurship skills and economic resilience. Our mission is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy. JA of Northern California programs are delivered to youth from 5-25 years old by corporate and community volunteers. For more information, visit [norcal.ja.org](http://norcal.ja.org).