



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **2026 Indy's Best and Brightest Winners Announced**

*More than 550 community leaders attended Junior Achievement's Indy's Best & Brightest event, presented by KPMG LLP*

**INDIANAPOLIS (April 22, 2026)** — On Wednesday, April 22, Junior Achievement of Central Indiana recognized 100 of the city's most outstanding young professionals at an awards ceremony held at the Fishers Event Center. All 100 honorees were celebrated for their professional achievements and philanthropic impact on the community.

From this distinguished group, 10 individuals received top honors and were named **2026 Indy's Best and Brightest** winners in their respective categories.

[Event Graphic Image](#)

Junior Achievement was honored to welcome Olivia West—keynote speaker and host of Olivia West Speaks; partner at DRVN; and in-game host/emcee for the Pacers and Fever with Pacers Sports & Entertainment—alongside JA Student Ambassador Kiva as the evening's emcees. Jasmin French, Senior Director of Right Environment, Global Ethics, Compliance & Privacy at Cummins Inc., delivered the keynote address, and Jennifer Burk, CEO of Junior Achievement of Central Indiana, shared remarks.

## **2026 Indy's Best and Brightest Winners**

### **Accounting**

Justin Verbeten, CPA

### **Banking & Financial Services**

Adam Shaffer

### **Education & Nonprofit**

C. Daniel Graham

### **Government, Tourism & Arts**

Sarah Hayward

**Health & Life Sciences**

Rebecca McNally Keehn, PhD, HSPP

**Law**

Alejandra Reichard

**Manufacturing, Retail & Services**

Chad Peterman

**Media, Entertainment & Sports**

Leigh-Ann Richardville

**Real Estate, Development & Construction**

Kionna Louise Walker, AIA, NOMA

**Technology**

Chelsea Linder

**[PHOTO: 2026 Indy's Best & Brightest Winners]**

COMING SOON in follow up email

**About Indy's Best and Brightest**

Indy's Best and Brightest, an initiative of Junior Achievement of Central Indiana, was created to recognize the city's outstanding young professionals who serve as role models in their fields and communities. Honorees are evaluated based on their professional accomplishments, civic engagement, and leadership qualities.

Learn more at: <https://indy.ja.org/events/indy-s-best-and-brightest>

**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 provides hands-on, experiential learning opportunities in career exploration, life skills, entrepreneurship, financial literacy, and philanthropy for students in grades K–12 and young adults ages 18–25.

Visit [www.jaindy.org](http://www.jaindy.org) for more information.