



THE JOB FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2025

Our Mission:

To equip K-12 students and their families for economic advancement.

Our Vision:

All people achieving financial success!



Seniors, Successes, and New Beginnings

The Job Foundation proudly hosted its Eighth Annual Senior Celebration on May 1st, honoring four outstanding graduates from the 2025 graduating class: Avari, Staats, Navaeh, and Aubrey. Surrounded by mentors, supporters, and family, these students were celebrated for their hard work, growth, and commitment throughout their time in the program.

The evening was filled with joy, reflection, and hope for the future. As these seniors take their next steps, we are excited to see how they carry the lessons and support from The Job Foundation into life beyond high school. Congratulations to the Class of 2025. Everyone is so proud of what you have accomplished!

These four graduates are proof that financial education changes lives and now they are stepping into adulthood prepared, confident, and empowered.

Navaeh with her family



Board President Mike Brost speaking to the seniors



Aubrey with her family and boyfriend

Avari and her family



Staats and his family

2025 Senior Spotlights

Avari shared that one of her biggest takeaways from the program is that even the things you do not want to do can teach you valuable lessons. She has learned that patience is key because the most important things take time. A meaningful part of her experience was receiving guidance from experts on important life steps, like completing her FAFSA. Her mentor, Wini, made a lasting impact by always following through, giving Avari a strong sense of stability and support.



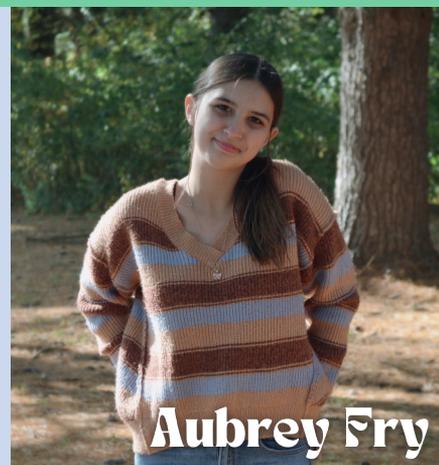
Avari Stigler



Staats Gabriel

Staats shared how the program helped shape his financial habits: "I learned to spend less than I earn, budget so I never have overdrafts, and understand the difference between needs and wants. At first, I was not used to having money to spend on what I wanted, but I realized better things come if you wait and save. The biggest thing The Job Foundation taught me is to save more than you spend and always budget so you know what you have at all times." His experience shows how early financial education can lead to lasting confidence and smart decision-making.

When asked about her biggest takeaway from the program, Aubrey shared, "My biggest takeaway would be learning about finances. I know a lot more about how to handle money than most kids my age. The biggest opportunity this program has given me is a good start on my future. Between the savings I have to get me started and also having the opportunity to go to college." Aubrey's insight speaks volumes. The lessons she has gained go beyond financial skills; they lay the foundation for a future built on stability, confidence, and success.



Aubrey Fry



Navaeh Davis

For Navaeh, the impact of The Job Foundation went beyond financial lessons. The support and belief from those around her gave her the confidence to graduate early, something she once thought was impossible. She now plans to attend cosmetology school and hopes to start her own business, something she feels prepared for thanks to the financial knowledge and real-world skills she gained through the program.



Looking to keep updated with other exciting Job Foundation news and share about our mission? It's easy, follow us on social media!

Find us @thejobfoundation, then:

- Follow
- Like and comment
- Share posts with your friends!

Spring Shopping Day

This spring's Shopping Day looked a little different for The Job Foundation's elementary and middle school students, but the excitement and purpose behind it remained strong. With the closure of Crossroads, a new location was needed to host the event. Grace Baptist Church generously opened its doors, providing a welcoming space where students could meet with volunteer bankers to create a spending plan before heading out to shop. Afterwards, everyone gathered back at the church to enjoy lunch, balance their spending trackers and reflect on the day.

Thanks to the church's central location in Waterloo, students and families were able to reach nearby stores without much difficulty. Even with a change in venue, the heart of Shopping Day stayed the same. Students had the chance to use money they earned through strong attendance, good grades, and positive behavior to make thoughtful spending choices. The day served as a celebration of responsibility, growth, and the continued support of a caring community.





Financial Literacy Lessons

At The Job Foundation, we strive to teach youth how to master their finances. Here's a recap of lesson topics covered in the 2024-2025 school year:

Our Mission:

To equip K-12 students and their families for economic advancement.

Our Vision:

All people achieving financial success!

Our Method:

A long-term investment in youth growing up in low-income households by equipping them with the knowledge, tools, and assets to become financially independent adults.



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JOB FOUNDATION

Elementary School

- Wants v. needs
- Pillars of character
- How to be a good friend
- What is a job v. What is a career?
- Emotional intelligence
- Conflict resolution
- What is a bank and its services



Middle School

- Loans
- Career exploration
- Non-materialism
- Volunteerism
- Leadership
- Critical thinking
- Renting v. owning
- Charitable giving
- Protection from fraud and scams
- Taxes
- Wants v. needs
- Investing
- Avoiding addictive substances



High School

- Budgeting and savings
- Credit and predatory lending
- Insurance
- Avoiding fraud and scams
- Career preparedness
- News literacy
- How to buy a car
- Charitable giving



Seniors

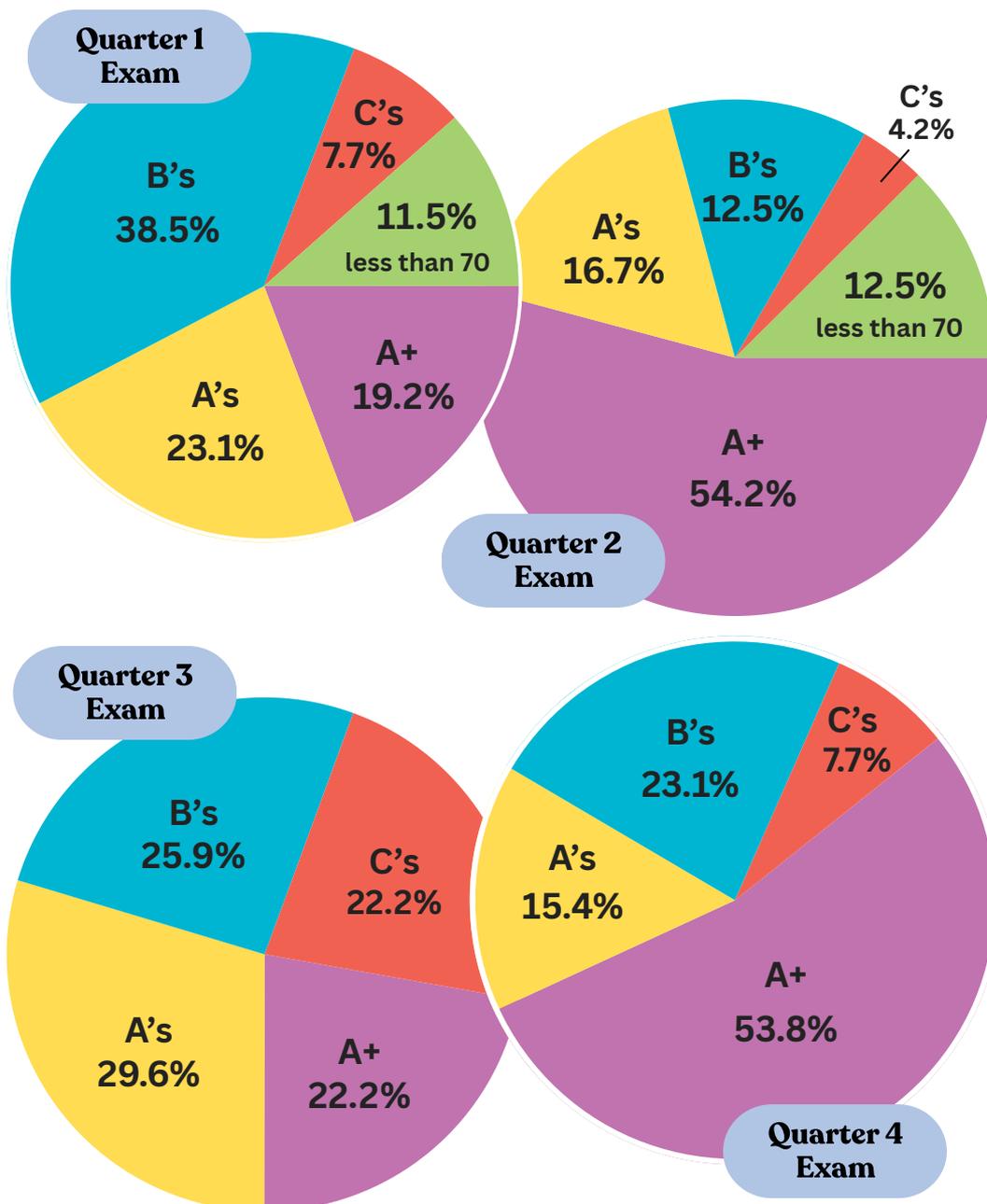
- Resumes
- Cover letters
- Job applications
- Interviews
- FAFSA
- Applying to college
- Creating a six-month budget



Learning in Action: Test Scores Climb Across the Board

Throughout the 2024-2025 school year, middle school students in The Job Foundation’s program showed remarkable academic progress with test scores rising across the board! This growth reflects each students hard work, the guidance of dedicated mentors, and the impact of consistent financial education.

From budgeting basics to understanding long-term savings, these students strengthened their knowledge and have already started to apply it in meaningful ways. When students are equipped with the tools to understand money and make smart decisions, they rise to meet every challenge. It’s more than just test scores. It is proof that learning is truly in action.



Job Bucks: Rewarding Responsibility

Middle school students have the chance to earn “Job Bucks”, our fun monopoly-style money, during lessons by behaving well and participating in a positive way.

After each quarterly test, students get to spend their “Job Bucks” at our special store where they purchase items like sports gear, snacks, hair and grooming products, and more. It is a great way to teach smart spending while celebrating their hard work and good choices.



Middle school student K'Den holding his reward from being a top five “Job Buck” earner in quarter 4!

Want to get involved?
 Email Program Director Seth Stearns at seth@thejobfoundation.org to learn more about donating items or volunteering during Job Store days!



Mentor Spotlight

Dave Riley is a retired lawyer with a passion for youth and financial literacy. He volunteers as a driver for middle school lessons, participates in Shopping Day, helps students balance checkbooks, serves as a board member, and mentors! Dave has been mentoring for five years now, working with two mentees over that time. His current mentee is Javion.

Dave's favorite part of mentoring is seeing Javion's excitement and enthusiasm for whatever they have planned that day. Javion is such an inspiring young person who has shown Dave that even the smallest investments of time and attention can shift a student's mindset and open up new possibilities.

Some of Dave's favorite memories with Javion include going to a Buck's game, spending the day at Palmer's in Waterloo, and catching shows at the Waterloo Community Playhouse. Recently, Dave gave Javion one of his extra bikes, and he's loved watching him pour energy and dedication into learning a new hobby they can enjoy together.



Dave and Javion at this years senior celebration!



Dave and Javion at Shopping Day!

Become a mentor!

A student needs YOU.

An essential part of program success is having a mentor who commits to spending an average of one hour per week with their mentee.

Would you be willing to invest in the life of a student and cheer them on?

Call Seth Stearns at
319-823-1095
or scan the code below
for an application!



SCAN ME

[thejobfoundation.org/
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The Job Foundation's Monthly Giving Club

To show our appreciation to our donors, this page features individuals and organizations that have graciously made The Job Foundation a part of their budget. Each of these donors has devotedly given or pledged to give to this foundation once a month. The Job Foundation thanks you beyond comprehension for your generous gifts.

THE JOB FOUNDATION'S Wise Owl Monthly Donors



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Join Our Mission and Donate Today!

The simple truth is, at The Job Foundation everything we do is because of our supporters. It is your kindness that a child living in poverty will gain financial awareness that will end the cycle of generational poverty.

Every dollar counts!



Ways To Give:



Call Development Director
Daekota Knott at
(319) 823-1033



The Job Foundation
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