



MENTORING MAKES A BIG IMPACT

We know the value of a smart investment—one that yields measurable returns and drives long-term growth. Big Brothers Big Sisters mentoring programs are just that: an investment in the future of our economy.



MENTORSHIP PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS

Groundbreaking research from a longitudinal economic study titled, **"The Long-Term Impacts of Mentors: Evidence from Experimental & Administrative Data"** confirms that being a "Little" through Big Brothers Big Sisters significantly improves lifetime economic outcomes.



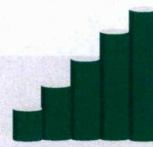
HIGHER COLLEGE ENROLLMENT

BBBS Littles are **20% more likely** to attend college, fueling a skilled workforce.



INCREASED EARNINGS

BBBS Littles **earn 15% more** over their lifetimes, strengthening financial independence and consumer spending.



ENHANCED ECONOMIC MOBILITY

Being a BBBS Little reduces the socioeconomic gap by **two-thirds**.

+ Every dollar invested in BBBS mentoring pays for itself within 7 years, creating sustained economic benefits.

CHANGE THE ODDS, TRANSFORM SOCIETY

Mentorship reshapes futures, strengthens communities, and drives economic progress. Together, we can change the odds and build a better tomorrow.

Source: The Long-Term Impacts of Mentors: Evidence from Experimental & Administrative Data, Alex Bell and Neviana Petkova (2024)

BBBS.ORG/IMPACT



FOLLOW US:



Beyond School Walls (BSW) connects students from complimentary career academies, pathways, and programs focused on postsecondary attainment with mentors from local businesses representing targeted industries. These strategic partnerships enrich the education and preparation of students by providing meaningful and relevant workplace experiences.

THE CHILDREN WE IMPACTED IN 2024-25 BEYOND SCHOOL WALLS

YOUTH SERVED

360

Big Brothers Big Sisters.

BEYOND
SCHOOL WALLS

ETHNICITY SERVED

- Hispanic
- Multi-Racial/Other
- Caucasian
- Black
- Asian
- Middle Eastern

GENDERS SERVED



OUR IMPACT

100%

Seniors graduated high school

99%

Youth promoted to the next grade

99%

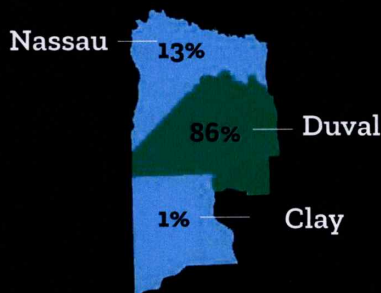
Youth maintained or improved classroom behavior

96%

Youth maintained or improved school attendance

Statistics based on metrics obtained for 307 of 360 BSW matches served

COUNTIES SERVED



BOLD PATH BIG FUTURE

Through inspired investments and facilitated application processes BBBSNEFL awarded scholarship funds to community youth.



\$167,000

awarded to Beyond School Walls youth

in partnership with



SUPPORTING PARTNERS



FLORIDA COMMERCE



PARTNERING BUSINESSES



2024-25 Partnering Schools and Programs

- A. Philip Randolph - Criminal Justice (two partnerships)
- Andrew Jackson - Cyber Security & Medical (two partnerships)
- Ed White - AVID & Digital Design (two partnerships)
- Englewood - Army JROTC and G.E.A.R UP Program (two partnerships)
- Fernandina Beach - Criminal Justice (two partnerships)
- First Coast - Computer Science, Logistics, and Finance (three partnerships)
- Frank H. Peterson - Robotics
- Jean Ribault - G.E.A.R UP Program
- KIPP Bold City - Information Technology, Cyber Security and Logistics (two partnerships)
- Riverside - Engineering
- Sandalwood - Engineering
- Terry Parker - AVID
- Westside - Computer Science & Logistics (two partnerships)
- Wolfson - Finance
- Yulee - AVID & Medical (two partnerships)

WHAT DOES THE CORPORATE COMMITMENT ADD UP TO?

\$614,000 in leveraged grant dollars +

137 MENTORING
SESSIONS

5,220
HOURS

\$176,384*
IN TIME

= \$790,384 DONATED TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

*Estimated Value of Volunteer Time for 2024 (<https://independentsector.org/resource/value-of-volunteer-time/>): \$33.79 per hour

Maya M. Delgado

Address: Chicago, IL | Email: maya.delgado@email.com | Phone: (312) 555-9473 | [LinkedIn.com/in/mmdelgado](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mmdelgado)

Professional Summary

Visionary business management leader with 15 years of experience driving operational excellence, organizational culture, and strategic partnerships in Fortune 500 and nonprofit sectors. Combines analytical rigor with empathetic leadership to optimize team performance and growth. Proven success in corporate restructuring, change management, and sustainable development initiatives.

Education

Master of Science in Management & Innovation

Stanford University, Graduate School of Business – Stanford, CA

- Dean's List (Top 5%)
- Awarded *Innovation in Leadership Fellowship*
- Capstone: "Building Ethical Frameworks in Emerging Markets"

Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), International Business & Marketing

University of Michigan – Ross School of Business

- Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*
 - Global Business Scholar (studied in Singapore & London)
 - Founder, Women in Business Leadership Society
-

Professional Experience

Vice President of Corporate Strategy

GlobalTech Industries, Chicago, IL | 2019 – Present

- Led strategic planning for a \$500M multinational operation across 4 regions.
- Orchestrated a company-wide digital transformation that cut costs by 20% and improved customer retention by 30%.
- Developed internal leadership training program adopted across 3 continents.
- Honored with *GlobalTech President's Circle Award (2022)*.

Director of Business Operations

United Way Worldwide, Washington, D.C. | 2014 – 2019

- Managed \$60M operational budget across 20+ regional offices.
- Streamlined performance systems that increased community impact outcomes by 18%.
- Recognized as *Nonprofit Business Leader of the Year (2018)* by the Washington Business Journal.

Operations Consultant

Boston Consulting Group (BCG), Chicago, IL | 2010 – 2014

- Designed turnaround strategies for corporate clients in retail, energy, and healthcare.
- Contributed to 12 high-profile M&A projects totaling \$2B in combined deal value.

Awards & Recognition

- *Crain's Chicago 40 Under 40 (2021)*
- *Stanford GSB Alumni Impact Award (2023)*
- *Top 100 Women in Business Leadership (Forbes, 2022)*

Professional Affiliations

- Member, National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO)
- Advisory Council, Chicago Chamber of Commerce Leadership Institute
- Mentor, Stanford Women in Management Fellowship

Skills

Strategic Leadership | Business Analytics | Change Management | Cross-Cultural Communication | DEI Strategy | Corporate Sustainability | Executive Coaching | Digital Transformation

Jordan M. Thompson

Address: Atlanta, GA | Email: jordan.thompson@email.com | Phone: (404) 555-2398 | [LinkedIn.com/in/jmthompson](https://www.linkedin.com/in/jmthompson)

Professional Summary

Strategic and results-driven business management professional with over 12 years of experience leading organizational growth, financial planning, and cross-functional operations in corporate and startup environments. Recognized for transforming underperforming divisions into profitable business units and developing high-performing teams through data-driven leadership. Passionate about innovation, sustainable business practices, and mentoring future leaders.

Education

Master of Business Administration (MBA), Strategy & Organizational Leadership

Emory University – Goizueta Business School, Atlanta, GA

- Graduated **Magna Cum Laude**
- President, Graduate Business Association
- Recipient, *Goizueta Dean's Leadership Award*

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Finance & Management

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- Graduated with Honors
 - Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society
 - Student Government Finance Chair
-

Professional Experience

Senior Director of Business Operations

Delta Global Logistics, Atlanta, GA | 2018 – Present

- Oversaw a \$120M division with a team of 85, achieving 22% revenue growth in two years.
- Implemented performance metrics and analytics systems that improved operational efficiency by 35%.

- Led company's transition to a hybrid workforce, maintaining productivity and employee satisfaction.
- Recognized with the **Delta Excellence in Leadership Award (2022)**.

Business Development Manager

Accenture Consulting, Atlanta, GA | 2014 – 2018

- Managed multimillion-dollar client portfolios in technology and healthcare sectors.
- Developed partnership strategies resulting in \$40M in new business.
- Selected for Accenture's Global Leadership Rotation Program (2016).

Financial Analyst

Regions Bank, Birmingham, AL | 2011 – 2014

- Conducted risk assessments and financial modeling for corporate clients.
- Reduced client churn by 15% through improved reporting and communication systems.

Awards & Recognition

- *Forbes 30 Under 30 – Business Leadership (2017)*
- *Emory "Rising Executive" Alumni Award (2020)*
- *Atlanta Business Chronicle Top 40 Under 40 (2023)*

Professional Affiliations

- Member, American Management Association
- Board Member, Metro Atlanta Young Professionals Council
- Mentor, Girls Who Lead Business Fellows Program

Skills

Strategic Planning | Financial Forecasting | Organizational Development | Leadership Coaching | Mergers & Acquisitions | Process Optimization | Stakeholder Engagement | Data Analytics

"The What a Leader training and competition really challenged me to think through my decisions and taught me a lot about what it means to be a leader in my community."

— Jayah Peoples 2023,
What A Leader Victor



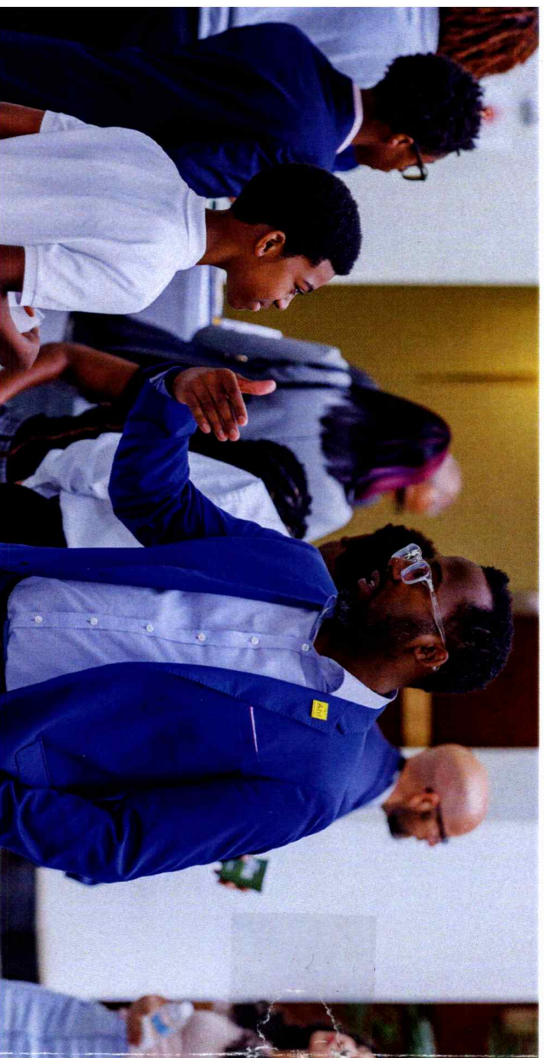
Round 1 Social Mixer

Leaders demonstrate their confidence and communication skills by applying **The Confident 5**: a firm handshake, eye contact, name exchange, meaningful conversation, and a strong closeout. In a dynamic networking setting, leaders engage peers and stakeholders, demonstrating poise and professionalism.

89%

of businesses consider professionalism an essential competency

— The National Association of Colleges and Employers



Round 2 Center Stage

In this high-stakes round of the competition, leaders navigated a series of real-world role-play scenarios, each facilitated by local business professionals. At every station, they were evaluated on essential leadership skills, including critical thinking, confidence, conflict resolution, public speaking, and problem-solving.

Following a strong display of leadership under pressure, four exceptional students advanced to the next round, proving they're prepared to lead and one step closer to claiming the title of **What A Leader Victor**.

91%

professionals report that human skills, or soft skills, are increasingly important.

— The Aspen Leadership Development Index

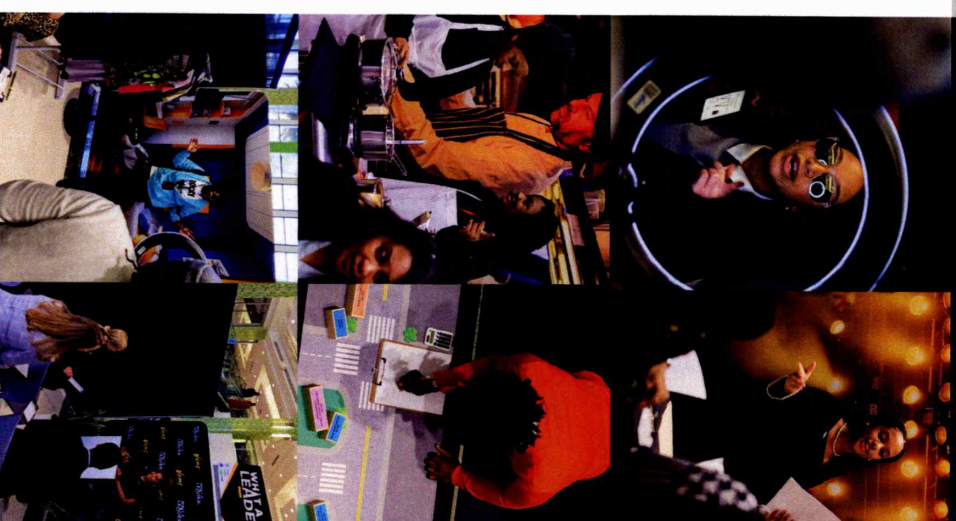
96%

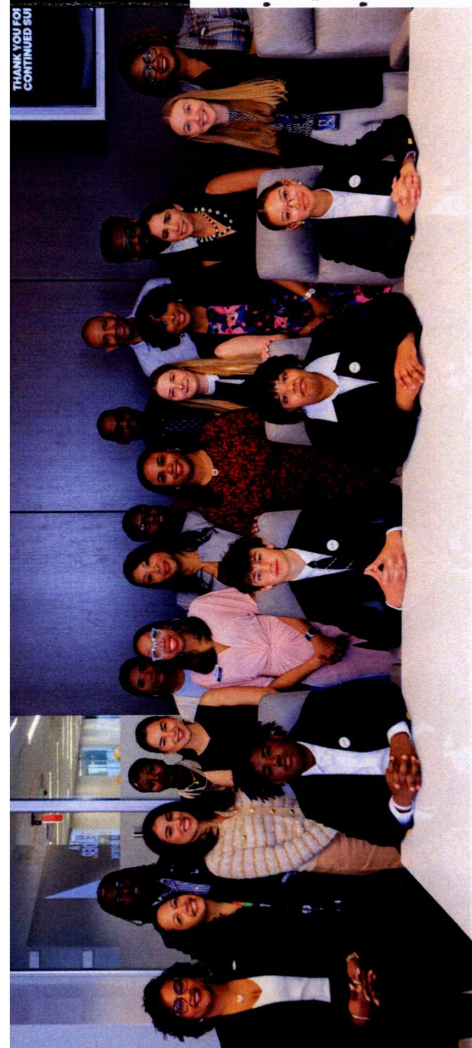
Percent of employers citing Communication as most important career readiness skill

— The National Association of Colleges and Employers

"Before What A Leader, I knew I had a voice, but this program showed me how to use it with purpose. Now I lead with confidence."

— Mikayla Franklin 2022,
What A Leader Victor

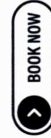




THANK YOU FOR CONTINUED SUPPORT

Round 3 The Executive Suite

Following a highly competitive selection process, our four finalist leaders advanced to the ultimate challenge, stepping into the professional world to engage directly with senior executives from some of Jacksonville's leading businesses and organizations. Their day included a high-pressure proposal meeting at Vystar Executive Suite, a professional networking lunch, and an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour. Throughout the experience, finalists were evaluated on their ability to confidently lead, communicate with clarity, and navigate real-world professional environments with poise and purpose.



WHAT A LEADER.

Competition

What A Leader is a youth leadership training and competition that empowers students to grow in confidence, critical thinking, communication, professionalism, and relationship development. Through a series of real-world challenges, students practice making strong introductions, networking with purpose, presenting ideas, and leading under pressure.

The training experience equips young leaders to thrive in school, career, and beyond, culminating in a series of high-stakes competition rounds where the **What A Leader Victor** is awarded a college scholarship, cash prize, and presented with the coveted **WAL of FAME Gold Blazer**.

NOV
10
2025

ROUND 1 THE SOCIAL MIXER

Leaders demonstrate their confidence and communication skills by applying **The Confident 5**: a firm handshake, eye contact, name exchange, meaningful conversation, and a strong closeout. In a dynamic networking setting, leaders engage peers and stakeholders, demonstrating poise and professionalism.



JAN
23
2026

ROUND 2 CENTER STAGE

Leaders rotate through a series of high-impact role-play scenarios, each facilitated by a local business professional. At every station, participants are evaluated on essential leadership competencies, including critical thinking, confidence, conflict resolution, public speaking, and problem-solving.



MAR
12
2026

ROUND 3 THE EXECUTIVE SUITE

Leaders step into the professional world, engaging directly with senior-level executives at some of Jacksonville's most prominent businesses and organizations. The day includes a high-stakes proposal meeting in a corporate setting, a professional networking lunch, and an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour. Throughout the experience, students are evaluated on their ability to lead with confidence, communicate effectively, and navigate real-world environments with professionalism.



Apr
1
2026

WHAT A LEADER. VICTORS CEREMONY

After three dynamic rounds of competition showcasing leadership, confidence, and growth, we proudly announce this year's **What A Leader Victor**! Join us for an unforgettable evening on the Cowford Chophouse Rooftop as we honor our finalists and celebrate the leaders' past, present, and future, who continue to shape the world. Enjoy complimentary food and drinks, connect with fellow changemakers, and be part of a night that elevates excellence.



Congratulations!

Roy Harvison - 9th grade
William M. Raines High School
2025 What A Leader Victor

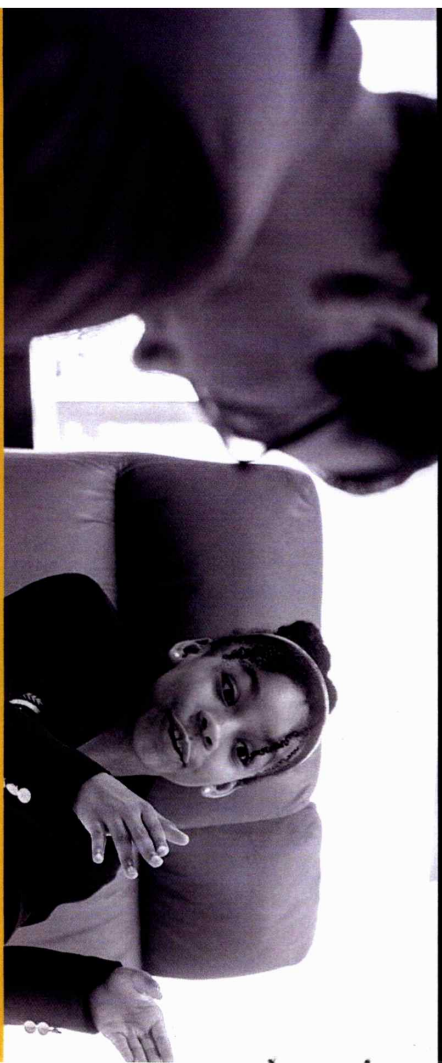


WHAT A LEADER.

Training

WHAT A LEADER.

Competition



BUDGET OPT. 1

TRAINING

- 10 Schools/Sites
- 2 Training Sessions (90 min.)
- 50 Students per session
- WAL Climb to Success Toolbox
- Onsite WAL Qualifier

EVENTS

- Leadership Day
- WAL Competition
 - Middle School
 - High School
- WAL Leadership Cohort

TOTAL: \$200,000

BUDGET OPT. 2

TRAINING

- 20 Schools/Sites
- 2 Training Sessions (90 min.)
- 50 Students per session
- WAL Climb to Success Toolbox
- Onsite WAL Qualifier

EVENTS

- Leadership Day
- WAL North FL Regional Competition
 - Middle School
 - High School
- WAL Leadership Cohort

TOTAL: \$350,000

BUDGET OPT. 3

TRAINING

- 30 Schools/Sites
- 2 Training Sessions (90 min.)
- 50 Students per session
- WAL Climb to Success Toolbox
- Onsite WAL Qualifier

EVENTS

- Leadership Day
- WAL Conference
- WAL North FL Regional Competition
 - Middle School
 - High School
- WAL Leadership Cohort

TOTAL: \$450,000

Note: Sponsorship funding must be received before Oct 1, 2025 to have logo included on print material.

» Get Involved in the Competition!

JUDGE



VOLUNTEER



WHAT A LEADER COMPETITION SPONSOR OPPORTUNITIES

| TITLE SPONSOR | | "POWERED BY" SPONSOR | | SPONSOR | |
|--|--|----------------------|----------------------|---------------|---|
| \$25,000+ | | \$10,000 | | \$2,500+ | |
| 4 Slots Available | | 10 Slots Available | | | |
| Placement | | Sponsor | "Powered By" Sponsor | Title Sponsor | |
| Press Release | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Logo on Select Marketing Print Materials | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Logo Placement on JAMS Website (WAL Page) | | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Company/Organization/Foundation logo on 1 of 10 Station Challenges as a "Power By" Sponsor | | | ✓ | | ✓ |
| Marketing Video Logo Placement | | | | | ✓ |
| Title Sponsor | | | | | ✓ |

Note: Sponsorship funding must be received before Oct 1, 2025 to have logo included on print material.



Jessie



Forward Group, LLC

BLA/ATNIK
FAMILY FOUNDATION



WWW.JAMSLIFE.ORG



Jessie



Forward Group, LLC

BLA/ATNIK
FAMILY FOUNDATION



WWW.JAMSLIFE.ORG

WHAT A
LEADER.

Congratulations!

Roy Harvison

William M. Raines High School

2025 What A Leader Victor



"Being the What A Leader Victor, taught me that authentic leadership is not about having all the answers; it is about confidence, connection, and the courage to keep growing. The experience didn't just build my skills, it built lifelong relationships and showed me the power of my voice."

— Jerald Dewdney 2024, What A Leader Victor

Leadership Training – Climbing the WAL

WAL optimizes the necessary steps required to promote a culture of building positive environments suitable for advocating and amplifying youth voices in leadership and fostering success in life and work.



Module 1: CONFIDENCE

Students are introduced to "The Confident 5"—Firm Handshake, Eye Contact, Name Exchange, Meaningful Conversation, and Closeout.



Module 2: CRITICAL THINKING

Trainees discover methods of observation, analysis, inference, communication, and problem-solving using **Intellectual, Interpersonal, and Technical aptitude (I.T.)** to promote innovative reasoning.



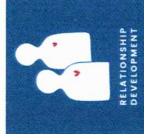
Module 3: COMMUNICATION

Participants explore verbal and non-verbal communication methods, developing active listening skills based on **personality types, social occasions, and communication channels.**



Module 4: PROFESSIONALISM

Students learn the importance of tact and building credibility through the evidence of **Competence, Accountability, Respect, and Ethics (C.A.R.E.)**.



Module 5: RELATIONSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Students receive instruction on the essential role of social capital and the **four phases of relationship building—Initiation, Experimentation, Fortification, and Integration.**



Introduction

Leaders become great not because of power but because of their ability to empower others.

—John Maxwell

In a world demanding bold, innovative, and emotionally intelligent leadership, the What A Leader (WAL) program, created by the Jacksonville Arts & Music School (JAMS), offers a groundbreaking response. Launched in 2021, WAL is more than a youth competition for students in 6th-9th grade; it is a transformational leadership development experience designed to grow young leaders into the creative problem solvers, decision-makers, and changemakers our future requires.

Leadership is no longer optional; it's a necessity. Research from the Center for American Progress reveals that 77% of corporations reported leadership gaps, resulting in annual costs of up to \$550 billion for U.S. businesses. The Aspen Leadership Development Index reports that fewer than 32% of U.S. youth receive impactful leadership training before the age of 25.

The future demands leaders who are not only technically capable but also emotionally intelligent, adaptable, and driven by purpose. What A Leader is essential to ensure the next generation can meet the growing expectations of a fast-changing, skills-driven workforce.

At the heart of the What A Leader program are five essential leadership competencies: Confidence, Critical Thinking, Communication, Professionalism, and Relationship Development.

As industries rapidly evolve, employers are prioritizing candidates who can lead with empathy, adapt to change, and solve complex problems through strong interpersonal and cognitive abilities.

Each WAL training module assesses individuals' understanding of core leadership skills while encouraging them to challenge traditional norms and assumptions. In the WAL competition, finalists compete for the prestigious title of What A Leader Victor, an honor that comes with a college scholarship and cash prize.

Through real-world simulation challenges, interactive training modules, and high-level networking opportunities, students learn to:

- Introduce themselves with clarity and impact
- Engage in strategic, results-driven conversations
- Network intentionally with professionals and peers
- Present marketable ideas under pressure
- Navigate high-stakes environments with grace and resilience

WAL shares in educating students by providing intentional strategies through co-curricular involvement. Emphasis on public policy, urban development, entrepreneurship, media, arts, and technology allows for intersecting discussions of creative and critical thought.

Any student can maximize their talents, skills, and leadership potential with cultivation, collective accountability, and encouragement. A strategic focus on collaborating with the community, organizations, and businesses helps to develop sustainable relationships between youth and prominent leaders from both the public and private sectors, thereby establishing this ecosystem.

BECOME A PARTNER

Are you interested in investing in tomorrow's problem-solvers, creative thinkers, and innovative leaders?

www.jamslife.org/donation



Jacksonville Arts and Music School
3315 N. Liberty St.
Jacksonville, FL 32206

MAILING ADDRESS



@jamslax

For more information contact:

Tori L. Peoples
Director of Institutional Advancement
tori@jamslife.org
(c): 904-338-8046
(o): (904) 329-4279

We thank you for your continued support in helping to develop young creative leaders.

WHAT A LEADER.

Leadership for today. Preparation for tomorrow.



The Jessie
FOUNDATION



BLAVATNIK
FAMILY FOUNDATION

WMG Social
X-BFF Fund



Florida Blue



The Jessie
FOUNDATION



BLAVATNIK
FAMILY FOUNDATION

WMG Social
X-BFF Fund



Florida Blue

WHAT A LEADER.

Leadership for today. Preparation for tomorrow.