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## National Grid Teams Up with JA New York to Help NYC & LI High School Students Experience the Power of Staying in School

NEW YORK, NY, February 25, 2011 — With 1.2 million American students dropping out of high school every year, National Grid and [Junior Achievement of New York](#) have partnered together to present and host three work-readiness/career development and exploration education events in March. These events reflect National Grid's on-going community involvement and commitment to help strengthen student success and workforce readiness in NYC and Long Island.

National Grid's three work-readiness and career exploration opportunities will begin on Thursday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> with twenty-five students from George Westinghouse Technical High School who have been invited to tour the Brooklyn-based Greenpoint Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facility to learn about the natural gas distribution industry. Their day at the plant will include a panel discussion on a variety of topics relevant to National Grid's Engineering Our Future initiative. Student will "[shadow](#)" National Grid employees during their regular work day, to see firsthand the range of technical and engineering career options available in the energy sector while learning about the educational background and skills they will need to succeed on the job, as well as the benefits and impacts of the industry on the environment.

The following day, March 4<sup>th</sup>, National Grid will host a [Young Women's Leadership Conference](#) at National Grid's Melville, Long Island Learning Center. Sixty young women from East Meadow and Carey High Schools will participate in a day of activities and programs designed to engage young people in a discussion of the challenges and opportunities they will encounter in the workplace. National Grid leaders and employees will participate as presenters and mentors to the students. Students will be encouraged to begin setting personal and educational goals for their futures. Through participation in breakout sessions and interactions with speakers and mentors, students learn about the skills they will need to make their futures successful.

Finally, on March 18, sixty Brooklyn Tech High School seniors will participate in a [JA Job Shadow](#) career exploration event at National Grid Metrotech, Brooklyn, where they will spend the day exploring careers in engineering. National Grid volunteers will give an overview of the scope and future of engineering; share current and emerging career paths in the energy sector and will give students an up-close look at what typical day-to-day work looks like in various career tracks at National Grid.

The JA Job Shadow program and the two Leadership Conferences are made possible by National Grid employee volunteers and a \$15,000 company contribution to support Junior Achievement partnership initiatives, programs and events. Part of the grant is committed to funding National Grid Power Plant Tours and Job Shadow opportunities for more than one hundred NYC and Long Island students during the 2010-2011 school year. JA programs are designed to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy.

By providing students with relevant, hands-on experiences and experiential career research opportunities, Junior Achievement's work-readiness and career exploration programs help to address important educational challenges such as the national and local drop-out rate and the need to prepare students for the twenty-first century career marketplace.

“Many of the students dropping out of high school are dropping out despite the fact they have passing grades. They simply don’t see the relevance of their school work today to their future life success,” said Brian Varga, National Grid Director of US Technical Learning & Development. “National Grid is committed to providing educational work readiness opportunities to NYC and Long Island students to prepare them for existing and emerging career paths in the energy sector.”

Joseph Peri, president of Junior Achievement of New York, noted, “Job shadowing not only provides students with valuable firsthand workplace experience, it provides them with mentoring and role models. These experiences help prepare our young people to effectively compete with their peers from the U.S. and around the world as the global economy becomes increasingly interdependent and interconnected.”

Since the job shadow initiative began in 2008, the program has reached more than 30,000 students in over 200 cities.

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#### **About National Grid**

National Grid is an international energy delivery company. In the U.S., National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.3 million customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island, and manages the electricity network on Long Island under an agreement with the Long Island Power Authority (LIPA). It is the largest distributor of natural gas in the northeastern U.S., serving approximately 3.4 million customers in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York and Rhode Island. National Grid also owns over 4,000 megawatts of contracted electricity generation that provides power to over one million LIPA customers.

#### **About Junior Achievement of New York**

For more than 80 years, Junior Achievement of New York (JA New York), the local affiliate of JA USA, has delivered economic education and empowerment programs to NYC and Long Island students. Through a dedicated volunteer network of corporate and community individuals, JA New York provides high-quality K-12 in-school, after-school, and summer educational programs. JA New York educational programs impact important societal issues including youth development, economic development, and education reform, and focus on three key content areas: work readiness, entrepreneurship, and financial literacy. For more information about JA New York and its programs, visit [www.jany.org](http://www.jany.org).

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