



**AMBASSADOR LEWIS LUKENS  
REMARKS  
JUNIOR ACHEIVEMENT YOUTH MENTOR DAY  
Thursday, December 6, 2012 (17h00)  
Grand Theatre, Dakar**

Mr. Murray, Chairman of the Board of Jr. Achievement,

Jr. Achievement Board Members,

Parents and students,

It's an honor to preside at the Fifth Annual Junior Achievement Mentor's Day. Junior Achievement was of course founded in the United States, in 1919, and has since grown to a global organization serving almost 10 million young people in 120 countries.

It's clear that youth in Senegal need jobs. So, how better to help than to provide mentoring and leadership training?

I want to thank the many Senegalese business leaders who so generously give of their time to support Junior Achievement. I encourage all of the students here to take full advantage of that advice and guidance so that you will be prepared for top careers. Young business-minded people like yourselves must be able to compete in a global economy and even create your own sources of income.

But, Junior Achievement is not just about making money. It's about taking charge of your future. With the training and mentoring you have been given, you may decide to hunt down opportunities in the private sector or government, work for a non-profit organization, or start up your own business.

The U.S. Government is committed to supporting young leaders like you. In fact, we support many programs through USAID and Public Affairs to train and equip youth in Senegal.

As the parent of two young women, I know how important the years between 15 and 25 are to a young person's development. I want to thank you – the business mentors, parents and family members here today – for supporting these talented young people. I know it's not always easy, and that you have – and will continue to make – many sacrifices as you try to help your children grow and prosper.

In closing, I want to share a message from President Obama directed toward youth:

“...Soon enough, you will be the ones leading our businesses and leading our government. You will be the ones who are making sure that the next generation gets what they need to succeed. You will be the ones that are charting the course of our unwritten history. And all that starts right now – starts this year... Your country is depending on you. So set your sights high.”

Thank you.