KPMG Partner, Steve Rainey (MACC ’84) Invited to Speak On Capitol Hill

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The House of Representatives' Education and Labor Committee recently invited business leaders to Capitol Hill for a panel discussion on how volunteer initiatives in Corporate America are supporting the job training and skill development of youth. Among those invited to speak was Steve Rainey, Tax Partner-in-Charge for the Washington-Baltimore and Virginia business units, who described the firm's Involve Program and highlighted KPMG's relationship with Junior Achievement (JA), an organization that seeks to educate and inspire youth to value business and economics as a way to improve the quality of their lives.

The JA program, Rainey told Congressional staff and business leaders, is just one example of how KPMG's investments today are likely to make a difference tomorrow. "We believe that by helping JA, we are both building better communities and investing in our future. These young people that we touch in the classroom are our potential future employees, future clients, and future community leaders," said Rainey, who serves as Treasurer and a member of the Executive Committee for the National Capitol Area Chapter of Junior Achievement.

One goal of the Congressional event was to elevate corporate workforce readiness and youth initiatives, such as KPMG’s support of the Junior Achievement program, to the national education agenda. “The JA program helps prepare young people for the real world by showing them how to generate wealth and effectively manage it, how to create jobs that make their communities more robust, and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace,” Rainey said. “With the help of volunteers from organizations like KPMG, students put these lessons into action, and learn the value of contributing to their communities.”

Last year, as part of the JA program, nearly 400 KPMG volunteers gave more than 3,000 hours of their time to teach in schools throughout the country. Beyond the classroom, KPMG also participates in fund raising activities, donating more than $600,000 to JA in 2006.

“KPMG’s support of JA has the added benefit of exposing young diverse students to KPMG early in their educational experience,” Rainey said. “As the competition for high-achieving, talented young people increases, the value of this early interaction also increases. The JA program gives KPMG staff the opportunity to introduce young people to the world of business. Teaching youth new skills will not only help them succeed in their future careers, it also helps to ensure that KPMG will have a more educated workforce down the line.”

KPMG's participation in the briefing was made possible by the firm’s leadership role in Corporate Voices for Working Families, an organization that brings the private sector voice into the public dialogue on issues affecting working families. Also participating in the panel discussion were Brooke Brownlow, Vice President of the H.E.B Company, and Steve Wing, Director of Government Programs for CVS Pharmacy.