



At age 12, Dominic Osceola already has an impressive career entry for his resume; bank chief executive officer at BizTown in Tampa.

The Brandon Academy fifth-grader held the position for one day only, Dec. 3, as part of the Junior Achievement's BizTown elementary school hands-on economic literacy program. As part of the program, students learned about various careers and how to interview for a job.

"Dominic wanted to be a cameraman, but the principal said he had more potential than that, so he applied to be the CEO," said Connie Osceola, Dominic's grandmother. "He's outgoing, makes friends easily and is a natural born leader."

Three weeks prior to participating in the simulated BizTown, classroom teachers taught a dozen lessons about financial literacy, community and economy, work readiness and business management. After the academic portion of the program, the students went to town.

BizTown offered students a simulated real-world experience as they operated a bank, managed a restaurant, wrote checks and voted for mayor. One of the program's goals is to help students connect what they learned in class and what they see in the real world.

Founded in 1919, Junior Achievement is the country's largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to plan for their future economic success. According to the JA website, its purpose is to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in the global economy.

Osceola said her grandson gained confidence from the program, which shows in his schoolwork and relationships with his peers.

"Three weeks can change a life," Osceola said. "He wants to go to college and become the CEO of his own company."

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Dominic Osceola serves as CEO of Junior Achievement's BizTown for a day Dec. 3. (Courtesy photo)
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