

2004 NTS Award Recipients

Bjorn Skogquist, Mayor of Aroka
Is recognized for investing countless hours in working with JAG students, judging at the Minnesota Career Development Conference and for being an advocate of community connections

Jobs for Minnesota Graduates

Jobs for Minnesota's Graduates
The highest average wage for graduates during the 12-month follow-up period

Jobs for Minnesota's Graduates
2nd Place - State organization recognized for exceeding the JAG standard of one participant contact per month during the 12-month follow-up for the Class of 2003

Marcia Moore-Foster, Executive Director
 Northwest Suburban Integration School
Is recognized for being an exemplary supporter of Jobs for Minnesota's Graduates since its inception; for rolling up her sleeves and leading by example; supporting JMNG by volunteering as a judge at the Minnesota Career Development Conference, keynote speaker and an all around friend to the staff and students of JMNG; displaying her belief in the JAG Model by allocating funds to increase the overall JMNG budget; and, for frequently being heard to say "JAG really works!"

Dr. Antoinette Johns, Superintendent ISD #286
Is recognized for helping establish JAG in Minnesota; for believing that education is for all learners; for shaking up the traditionalist in education; for believing JAG is a wonderful tool for students that need a boost to succeed in school and life; for investing countless hours promoting JAG to key Minnesota legislatures; for extolling the virtues of the JAG Model with everyone with whom she comes in contact.

Kaye Mason, Counselor ISD #286
Is recognized for playing a valuable role in the success of JMNG; for serving as a cheerleader for JMNG since its existence; for her dedication by volunteering at all events even bringing along family members to support JMNG; by encouraging students to actively take part in JMNG; for telling students, "YOU NEED JAG!"

Jobs for Mississippi Graduates

Jobs for Mississippi Graduates
1st Place-Education Rate-Class of 2003

Ellen Watts, Port Gibson High School
Recognized for being a Top 10 Specialist for maintaining contact with 100% of the program participants in the Class 2003 and delivering JAG Model services through the 12-month follow-up period

Kristi Murphy, Broad Street High School
Top Program for being a Top Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Herman Brown, Obannon High School
A Top 10 Program for being a Top Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Eleanor Stewart, Wingfield High School
A Top 10 Program for being a Top Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

William Pettis, Greenville/T. L. Weston High School
A Top 10 Program for being a Top Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Peggy Lark, Durant High School
A Top 10 Program for being a Top Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Lucille Spears, Lanier High School
Recognized for being a Top 20 Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Jobs for Montana's Graduates

Jobs for Montana's Graduates
Achieving the highest graduation rate for the Class of 2003

Jobs for Montana's Graduates
Achieving the second highest education rate for the Class of 2003

Krista Hertz, Roberts High School
A Top 10 Program for being a Top Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Jessica Goosen, Brady High School
Recognized for being a Top 20 Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Justin Jimison, Wolf Point High School
Recognized for being a Top 20 Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Lori Dickson, Powell County High School
Recognized for being a Top 20 Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Jobs for New Hampshire's Graduates

Jobs for New Hampshire's Graduates
State affiliates for having achieved "5 of 5" performance goals for the Class of 2003

Jobs for New Hampshire's Graduates
Recognized for exceeding the JAG standard for contacting employers during the 12-month follow-up period for the Class of 2003

Christine Lavoie, Stacy Dumont and Suzanne Swensen
The results of teamwork, they are recognized for the outstanding development of the Multi-Year Program utilizing the JAG and Substance Abuse Curriculum.

Yves Raymond, New Hampshire Community Technical College
A Top 10 performers based on average participant contact for the Class of 2003

Jobs for Ohio's Graduates

Jobs for Ohio's Graduates
State affiliates for having achieved "5 of 5" performance goals for the Class of 2003 - 9th consecutive year

Jim Baffone, Vice President, MBNA, and JOG, Inc. - Founding Board Member
Is recognized for being a JOG Inc. founding Board Member; for chairing Tri-County JOG; for his commendable leadership and commitment to at-risk youth in Ohio; for securing financial support from MBNA for Tri-County JOG and JOG Delaware.

Nancy Johnson, Princeton High School
Recognized for being a Top 10 Specialist for maintaining contact with 100% of the program participants in the Class 2003 and delivering JAG Model services through the 12-month follow-up period

Doug Kennedy, Purcell-Marian High School
Recognized for being a Top 10 Specialist for maintaining contact with 100% of the program participants in the Class 2003 and delivering JAG Model services through the 12-month follow-up period

Anita Pelletier, Goshen High School
Recognized for being a Top 10 Specialist for maintaining contact with 100% of the program participants in the Class 2003 and delivering JAG Model services through the 12-month follow-up period

Tom Wonderleigh, Chillicothe High School
Recognized for being a Top 10 Specialist for maintaining contact with 100% of the program participants in the Class 2003 and delivering JAG Model services through the 12-month follow-up period

Gregory Freeman, Buchtel High School
Recognized for being a Top 20 Specialist for maintaining contact with 100% of the program participants in the Class 2003 and delivering JAG Model services through the 12-month follow-up period

Robert Owens, Swiss Hills Career Center
Recognized for being a Top 20 Specialist for maintaining contact with 100% of the program participants in the Class 2003 and delivering JAG Model services through the 12-month follow-up period

Faye Rowland, Cambridge High School
Recognized for being a Top 20 Specialist for maintaining contact with 100% of the program participants in the Class 2003 and delivering JAG Model services through the 12-month follow-up period

Mike Smith, Northmont High School
Recognized for being a Top 20 Specialist for maintaining contact with 100% of the program participants in the Class 2003 and delivering JAG Model services through the 12-month follow-up period

John McConnell
Is recognized for his willingness to share best practices for using e-NDMS as an effective tool for managing a local program, a state organization and the national organization; for assisting new state organizations in implementing and using e-NDMS; for helping managers and supervisors generate e-NDMS management reports; and, for analyzing the quality of program services through the review of e-NDMS generated reports.

Jobs for Ohio's Graduates
Recognized for providing 75,551.64 hours of community service for the 2003-04 school year

JOG-Greater Canton
Community Service Hours-1,893 hours averaging 7.7 hours per member

JOG-Greater Cleveland
Community Service Hours-493 hours averaging 3.62 hours per member

JOG-Columbus
Community Service Hours-361 hours averaging 1.2 hours per member.

JOG-Delaware
Community Service Hours-19,146 hours averaging 37.18 hours per member

JOG-East Central
Community Service Hours-3,728.66 hours averaging 13.13 hours per member

JOG-Lorain County
Community Service Hours-203 hours averaging 1.6 hours per member

JOG-Mahoning Valley
Community Service Hours-Community Service Hours-6,896 hours averaging 18.34 hours per member

JOG Tri-County
Community Service Hours-7,444 hours averaging 19.53 hours per member

JOG Cincinnati
Community Service Hours-11,641 hours averaging 22.78 hours per member

JOG-Miami Valley
Community Service Hours-15,869 hours averaging 39 hours per member

JOG-Scioto County
Community Service Hours-3,437 hours averaging 10 hours per member

JOG-South Central
Community Service Hours-3,010 hours averaging 10 hours per member

JOG-Southwest
Community Service Hours-662 hours averaging 14.7 hours per member

JOG-West
Community Service Hours-540 hours averaging 7 hours per member

Michael Anderson, Elyria High School
Recognized for being a Top 20 Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Laura Shearer, Brunswick High School
The Top 10 performers based on average wage for the Class of 2003

Ron Whitmer, Ravenna High School
The Top 10 performers based on average wage for the Class of 2003

Soni Morris, Licking County Vocational
The Top 10 performers based on average wage for the Class of 2003

Jolene LaChey, Piqua High School
The Top 10 performers based on average wage for the Class of 2003

Anne Mellinger, Wadsworth High School
The Top 10 performers based on average wage for the Class of 2003

Ron Whitmer, Medina County Career Center
Recognized for being among the top 20 performers based on average wages for the Class of 2003

Doug Kennedy, Purcell-Marian High School
Recognized for being among the top 20 performers based on average wages for the Class of 2003

Ron Rider, Rutherford B. Hayes High School
Recognized for being among the top 20 performers based on average wages for the Class of 2003

Debra Shriver, Fairless High School
Recognized for being among the top 20 performers based on average wages for the Class of 2003

Lana Powers, Marysville High School
Recognized for being among the top 20 performers based on average participant contact for the Class of 2003

Christie Richards, Northridge High School
Recognized for being among the top 20 performers based on average participant contact for the Class of 2003

Jobs for Tennessee Graduates

Kevin Wyatt, Page High School
Recognized for outstanding performance in the JAG Model component of community service

Jerri Thomsen, Westview High School
Recognized for outstanding performance in the JAG Model component of community service

Phyllis Moore, Pearl-Cohn High School
A Top 10 Program for being a Top Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Joey Lewis, Unicoi County High School
Recognized his outstanding performance in working with special needs students.

Cindy Taylor
Recognized for excellence in integrating the Tennessee Career Association into the Senior Program Application of the JAG Model.

Jobs for Virginia's Graduates

Jobs for Virginia's Graduates
Achieving the third highest graduation rate for the Class of 2003

Jobs for Virginia's Graduates
State affiliates for having achieved "5 of 5" performance goals for the Class of 2003

Jobs for Virginia's Graduates
Recognized for having the third best rate in the network Unable to Contact Rate to 4.15% for the Class of 2003

Michael Bowles, Martinsville High School
Recognized for being a Top 20 Specialist for maintaining contact with 100% of the program participants in the Class 2003 and delivering JAG Model services through the 12-month follow-up period

Donna Sarver and Lew Mills, Rowanty Technical Center
Recognized for being among the top 20 performers based on average wages for the Class of 2003

Laura Lincoln, Smyth Career & Technology Center
The Top 10 performers based on average wage for the Class of 2003

Jobs for West Virginia's Graduates

Leta Perry, Ritchie County High School
Recognized for outstanding performance in the JAG Model component of community service

Tim Crites, Moorefield High School
Recognized for being a Top 20 Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Weldon Williams, Valley High School
Recognized for being a Top 20 Performer based on the Education Rate for the Class of 2003

Amanda Cooper, Wyoming East High School
For outstanding program improvement in 2003-04

Special Recognition

The Allstate Insurance Foundation
Is recognized for its investment of \$100,000 in Jobs for America's Graduates by sponsoring the development and distribution of a new JAG Curriculum Module (#82) on Insurance; the distribution of a program called "The Law and You;" and, for designing a plan for JAG Specialists to access local Allstate Agents in implementing the two new curriculum packages. Your investment will achieve extraordinary dividends for the Allstate-JAG Partnership.

Center for Labor Market Studies
Are recognized for their professionalism, scholarship and skills in presenting "just the facts" to JAG stakeholders. Our "thanks" for helping us identify areas for improvement and strengths that demonstrate the impact of the JAG Model in achieving the mission and performance goals of Jobs for America's Graduates.

Cathy McKee, Board Member
 Jobs for America's Graduates, Inc.
Is recognized for her commitment to the mission of Jobs for America's Graduates; for serving tirelessly on the JAG National Board of Directors; for leading or serving on various JAG Board committees; and, for assuring involvement of JAG stakeholders in the development of the 2005-2010 Strategic Plan.

Tom Tippet, Vice President—Human Resources
 Allstate Insurance Company
Is recognized for his extraordinary commitment to the young people served by Jobs for America's Graduates and for serving on the Board of Directors of Jobs for Illinois Graduates.



Average Contact Hours - Cathy McKee, 1st Place - Jobs for Maine's Graduates (Pete Thibodeau), 2nd Place - Iowa-JAG, Inc. (Kathy Davis), 3rd Place - Jobs for Arizona's Graduates (Grace Candia) and Ken Smith



Return to School Rate - Cathy McKee, 1st Place - Jobs for Maine's Graduates (Pete Thibodeau), 2nd Place - Jobs for Delaware's Graduates (Dr. Susanna Lee), 3rd Place - Jobs for Arizona's Graduates (Grace Candia) and Ken Smith



Top 10 Performer - Doug Gainous, Manchester High School (VA), Anne Mellinger, Firestone and Wadsworth High Schools (Ohio) and Ken Smith

JAG NTS Award Recipients

The Top 10 National High Performing Specialists are:

Miles Cannon	Dawson County High School, Georgia
Cal Dorman	Mountain Blue High School, Maine
Susan Emmet	Gardiner High School, Maine
Doug Gainous	Manchester High School, Virginia
Sherrie James	Springdale High School, Arkansas
Kevin Marriner	Belfast Area High School, Maine
Anne Mellinger	Firestone High School/Wadsworth High School, Ohio
Michelle Merrill	Livermore High School, Maine
Mark Rancourt	Messalonskee High School, Maine
Christie Richards	Northridge High School, Ohio

Top Job Specialists-Senior Program are:

Debbie Anselmi	Balb Knob High School, Arkansas
Pam Bassett	George Washington Carver High School, Alabama
Jessica Breeden	Craig County High School, Virginia
Debbie Butler	Scottsboro High School, Alabama
Susan Cochran	Bonnabel High School, Louisiana
Joyce Davis	Osseso Area School, Minnesota
Dan Gish	Lewiston Regional Technical Center, Maine
Linda Holt	Giles County High School/Richland High School, Tennessee
Jim Irish	Mt. Ararat High School, Maine
Nance Johnson	Princeton High School #2, Ohio
Doug Kennedy	Purcell-Marion High School #2, Ohio
Joey Lewis	Unicoi County High School, Tennessee
David Martin	Sacopec Valley High School, Maine
Lew Mills (team)	
Donna Sarver (team)	Rowanty Technical Center, Virginia
Lonnie Moore	Philo High School, Ohio
Tracy Nedelka	Streetsboro High School, Ohio
Ron Rider	Rutherford B. Hayes High School, Ohio
Alex Rosalez	Carl Hayden Community High School, Arizona
Paula Rothmeyer	Perry High School, Iowa
Kirby Roy	Marksville High School, Louisiana
Laura Schearer	Brunswick High School, Ohio
Carolyn Turner	Patrick Henry High School, Virginia
Bob Vance	Highland High School, Illinois
Rashad Watkins	Fridley/Brooklyn Center, Minnesota
Ron Whitmer	Ravenna High School, Ohio

Top Career Specialists-Multi-Year Program are:

John Burgess	Hall Dale High School, Maine
Jeff Chick	Machias Memorial High School, Maine
Eric Clarkson	Carlisle High School, Ohio
Gregory T. Dillard	Stone Mountain High School, Georgia
Sheila Gray	Simmons High School, Mississippi
Gerry Hartman	Mt. Gilead High School, Ohio
Tracy Hunt	East Ridge High School, Kentucky
Deborah Mays	Shaw High School, Ohio
Lori McBrine	Washington Academy, Maine
Parris Mitchell	Josey High School, Georgia
Bill Morrison	East Canton High School, Ohio
Carol Ann Myers	Santa Rita High School, Arizona
Rita D Ornelas	Sunnyside High School, Arizona
Victoria Perkins	Western Hills High School, Ohio
Mary Ann Prater	Pike Central, Kentucky
Dena Ralston	Peebles High School, Ohio
Becky Tower	Nokomis Regional High School, Maine
Jessica Ware	Lewis County High School, West Virginia
Dollie Willis	West Union High School, Ohio
Kara Wright	Hodgdon High School, Maine

JTG - North Central Tennessee Takes the Challenge

Troy Washington, Page High School, sang the National Anthem to open the Jobs for Tennessee's Graduates State Conference.

Fairview High JAG Bowl Team of **Junae Killingsworth, Rachel Morgan, Luke Putnam** and **Dusty England** placed 1st with an opening round win of 15-0 over Unicoi County and 15-8 over Clarksburg High in the championship round. This is the fifth straight year for Fairview to win the JAG Bowl at State.

North Central Tennessee won first place in the Regional Display for the sixth straight year. The display was presented by **Brad Jones** and **Amanda Maxwell** from Page High.

Other conference winners included:

Simon Campbell (Springfield High)	1st Place Program Cover Design
Kori Bledsoe (Fairview High)	1st Place Telephone Technique
Brittany Howell (Fairview High)	2nd Place Poster
Tisha Vaughn (Page High)	1st Place Application
Daniel Kennedy (Fairview High)	3rd place Business Math
Lorie Faulkner (Fairview High)	2nd Place Career Vocabulary
Brittany Fuqua (Fairview High)	3rd place Decision Making
Cliff Hand (Fairview High)	3rd Place Public Speaking



Brad Jones and Amanda Maxwell from Page High School received the 1st Place Regional Display from Mark Parsons, JTG State Director.

Luke Putnam, Dusty England, Juane Killingsworth and Rachel Morgan. 1st Place Team Challenge Fairview High with Mark Parsons, JTG State Director.



"Clara Theus Above and Beyond Award" presented to Mark Parsons (left).

"Preparation: The Ultimate Key to Success"

"Preparation: The Ultimate Key to Success" was the theme for Jobs for Ohio's Graduates' 18th annual state Career Development Conference. 120 youth from 53 high schools participated in the conference held at Veterans Memorial Auditorium in Columbus on May 3rd.

Earlier in the Spring, JOG's local affiliates participated in regional competition. The top five competitors from the North and South Regions of the state earned the right to compete at the state CDC. The competitions for seniors included: Application Technique, Program Design, Decision Making, Employability Skills, Employment Interview, Public Speaking, and Telephone Technique. One team event for seniors, Students for Service, and two for juniors, Team Challenge, and Visual Display, were also held.

All state participants were recognized with the top three competitors in each competition receiving a plaque for themselves and their school.

An added highlight to the day for many of the students was a visit to the Center of Science and Industry. At the end of the day, all were treated to hearing the award winning speech.



JOG Students at Center of Science and Industry

Students for Service - 1st place

JNHG Students Raise Funds for Scholarships

Over 600 business members and supporters joined in the St. Patrick's Day celebration in Manchester, NH in support of JNHG student scholarships. The evening raised funds to help support scholarships for deserving JNHG youth. **Mr. Bobby Stephen**, JNHG Board Chair has sponsored this event for 26 years.

The evening offers camaraderie, Irish music and corned beef and cabbage dinner, and traditional bagpipers. JNHG was pleased to have dignitaries in attendance such as: Governor Craig Benson, U.S. Senator Judd Gregg as well as many state and community leaders.

A former JNHG scholarship recipient, **Nichelle Collins** gave a very moving speech about how this scholarship changed her life. Nichelle is graduating in another month with an Associates Degree in Business and is working as a part-time shift supervisor with Hannaford Bros. grocery store. After Nichelle's speech, the store manager from another location offered her a management position. That's what the evening is all about, visibility for JNHG and deserving students.

JNHG offers over \$25,000 in scholarships to needy students.

Are You Ready For The Adventure?

“Are you ready for the adventure of a lifetime? I have to warn you...the ride can be a little bumpy and you won't always know what to expect, but if you'll trust in me and Jobs for America's Graduates, we will embark on this great adventure together. Are you ready, cause here we go!”

—Opening line of 4-year JKG member Kristina Bowen's Public Speaking National Championship Speech

In 2003-04, Jobs for Kentucky's Graduates truly embarked on an “exhilarating adventure of a lifetime.” CSA Dave Clusky led a powerhouse JKG team to sweep the JAG National Student Leadership Conference winning 4 out of 6 awards, including championships in Public Speaking and Employability Skills. In a “feat comparable to that of a superhero”, **Kristina Dawn Bowen**, JKG State President and 4-year Sheldon Clark High member, became the 2004 JAG National Public Speaking Champion, with JKG State Treasurer **Joseph Harris** as 1st Runner-Up. **Lora Horn** was awarded 2004 Employability Skills Champion, followed in 3rd place by **Vincent Bowman** and **Samantha Stacy** was recognized as Outstanding JKG Alumni. Bowen, Horn, Harris and Stacy, representatives of Sheldon Clark High, and Bowman, of Shelby Valley, along with 33 JKG state officers, delegates and chaperones, thoroughly enjoyed their experiences during NSLC, highlighted by meeting Emmy Winner Martin Sheen during a live taping of NBC's “The West Wing” at the Lincoln Memorial.

KEEPING UP WITH JKG

- JKG's national success brought accolades from many sources, including various media recognitions, legislative citations and a meeting between Kentucky Secretary of Education Virginia Fox, JKG's national champions, CSA Dave Clusky, and specialists Marcie Hanson and Bill Crockett.
- Hazard Independent Schools' JKG partnered with Dell Computers in providing a new Dell for every freshman. Dell is training several JKG members to serve as troubleshooters and administrators of this highly prestigious project which should be fully functional by Fall 2004.
- Five JKG students received 2004 JAG Chairman Awards: Jennifer Juberg, Nelson County High, and Kristina Bowen, Lora Horn, Joseph Harris, and Tabitha Parsons of Sheldon Clark High.
- The 2004 JKG Specialists of the Year are Bill Crockett, Clay Co. High; Marcie Hanson, Sheldon Clark High and Mike Rogers, Nelson County High. New Specialist of the Year for 2004 is Kim Myers of Beacon Central High. JKG Above and Beyond Award went to Larry Howard, Magoffin County High.
- The 2004 JKG CDC was an overwhelming success, with more than 1,200 members from across the state in attendance. The event was held at the Holiday Inn North in Lexington. Competitors were engaged in 15 different events including Public Speaking, Decision Making, Carpet Maze, Promotional Video, Service Learning, Poster and Essay.

Overall Program Awards for 2004 and Specialists:

1st	Sheldon Clark High	Marcie Hanson
2nd	Pike Central	Mary Ann Prater
3rd	East Ridge	Tracy Hunt
4th	Clay County ATC	Bill Crockett
5th	Belfry	Kari Thompson
6th	Estill County	Dickie Arthur

Specialist Recognition

11 Year
Bill Crockett, Clay County High
Sherry Harris, Knox Central

10 Year
Marcie Hanson, Sheldon Clark High

In one of the most productive and recognized program years in JKG's 11 year history, JKG truly soared to new heights in service and performance. In the words of Kristi Bowen, *“With JAG as my ever-faithful companion, I WILL FLY faster than a speeding bullet to the nearest phone booth and become a J-A-G superhero! Join me...it's YOUR chance to save the future!”*



Sheldon Clark High JKG members Joseph Harris, Lora Horn, Mrs. Marcie Hanson and Shaunda Crum pose with “West Wing” star Martin Sheen at the Lincoln Memorial during the NSLC Twilight Tour.



(L-R) Joseph Harris-2nd Place Nat'l Public Speaking, Kristina Bowen-1st Place Nat'l Public Speaking, Dave Clusky-JKG CSA, Lora Horn-1st Place Nat'l Employability Skills, Vincent Bowman-3rd Place Nat'l Employability Skills



Heather French Henry with JKG delegates in Washington, D.C.

The Scoop on Jobs for Maine's Graduates

Two sites for JMG's REACH program were added last fall – one in Searsport and the other in Warsaw. Together, the sites serve more than 30 junior-high students.

Maine State Chamber of Commerce announced its first JMG scholarship - After a series of exchanges between JMG President Pete Thibodeau and Maine's State Chamber of Commerce President Dana Connors, the Chamber developed the JMG Scholarship Program. A minimum of \$2,000 will be given annually to a JMG student going on to a 2- or 4-year college in Maine. The winning application and essay was chosen from 38 entries. The scholarship's first recipient from Washington Academy in Machias, Maine was announced by the Chamber President in a formal presentation at JMG's Career Development Conference.

JMG added a Development Department last fall - Two individuals recently were hired to head the area. Through their efforts in publicity, media coverage of JMG has increased. This has helped to expand awareness of JMG and create new avenues for financial contributions.

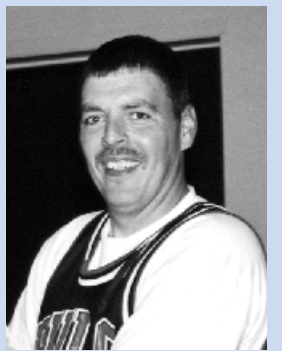
JMG's Development Department established an Alumni Association, which will serve as a networking opportunity for current students and graduates, beginning with a newsletter and an active committee of officers. It is hoped that in time, alumni students will become a significant funding source for JMG.

Current funders have increased their JMG support - Following face-to-face meetings and presentations, \$20,000 was received from a single funder for exclusivity in sponsoring JMG's Community Service projects. Other funders have increased their gift amounts in support of JMG's Student Enrichment Program.

At the CDC held in Augusta, nearly 600 students attended from 31 JMG school sites. Various community professionals and employers have been involved for several consecutive years. Many others became involved for the first time at this year's event, and declared that they will return next year. As a result, some students landed job interviews following exchanges that took place with business exhibitors during the “Career Expo” portion of the Conference.

Ed Leeman Receives Wal-Mart Maine Teacher of the Year Award

A veteran educator at Calais High School has won the Wal-Mart Maine Teacher of the Year Award. Ed Leeman, a Specialist with Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG), was formally presented the award, which includes a \$10,000 grant, at a ceremony hosted by Wal-Mart on Tuesday of last week.



The Wal-Mart award recognizes Leeman for positively influencing the lives of young people in Maine, and the annual contributions he and his students make to support and improve their community.

“I believe in each of my students. And I believe by giving them the opportunity to help others, they become more invested in the success of the larger community,” says Leeman. “I want my students to discover their own leadership skills and recognize the important role they play in their own futures.”

Leeman has been a JMG Specialist at Calais High School for the past twelve years. Through community service projects, his students have partnered with local retirement homes, the Make-A-Wish Foundation, the American Red Cross and the SPCA to provide support aimed at helping the community at large.

An important component to the JMG program is active participation from Maine's employers and business leaders.

“We have sponsored the JMG program for years because it takes young people out into what is essentially their local economy, and prepares them to compete in today's world of continued education and career choices,” says Dennis Brown, President/CEO of Calais Federal. “Ed Leeman is making a difference in his classroom that will ultimately benefit all of Maine.”