



JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES, CONNECTICUT

JAG CT seeks interested partner school districts

OCTOBER 2014 -- Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) is a 35-year old nonprofit youth development program dedicated to helping at-risk young people graduate from high school and make successful transitions to postsecondary education and meaningful employment. JAG has served 1 million youth since its inception and is currently operating in 32 states, helping young people achieve academic, career and social success.

The JAG model works in concert with school districts and includes classroom instruction, employability skills, adult mentoring, a student-led career association and 12 months of follow up.

JAG CT began operations in 2014 as a program of the Hartford Consortium for Higher Education. JAG CT seeks to supplement and complement district programs and resources, to help serve students who show a minimum of five established barriers to success, such court involvement, low income, under-credit to graduate, truancy, and other factors.

The program will begin by serving high school students. JAG CT will provide a Specialist, who will offer services as an elective course to 35-45 students, depending on the intensity of barriers. Schools will be asked to provide space in their master schedule, an elective credit to students completing the course, and support, including selecting appropriate students. A Memorandum of Understanding is also required.

JAG offers a proven curriculum and consistently positive results. The program focuses on accountability and personal engagement, and collects and analyzes activities and outcomes to demonstrate results and to continuously improve programming.

A description of JAG outcomes and elements is on the following page. For a national map and other information on JAG, visit www.jag.org.

For more information on JAG CT, contact Liz Dupont-Diehl, JAG CT Director, lddiehl@metrohartford.com, or Dr. Martin Estey, Hartford Consortium for Higher Education Executive Director, mestey@metrohartford.com.

JAG CT is a program of the





JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES:

Dropout Prevention, Postsecondary Education,
Careers and Leadership Development for At-Risk Youth

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

JAG RESULTS AND STUDENT SUCCESS – CLASS OF 2013

- **91% Graduation Rate** - completion of a high school diploma or GED.
- **Positive Outcome Rate of nearly 80%**- after graduation, students are employed, in the military, in postsecondary training, or some combination thereof.
- **Job Placement Rate of 59%** - **Double** the employment rate for the at-risk population and **triple** the rate of full time employment
- **A 71% Full Time Jobs Rate** – **Three times** the national average.
- **43% Higher Education Rate** – Students graduate from high school and successfully transition into post-secondary education.

KEY IMPACTS

- **Employment Impact:** A recent report conducted by Dr. Andy Sum, Director of the Center for Labor Market Studies at Northeastern University. Dr. Sum's report cites JAG as a program that **doubles** the rate that disadvantaged youth get jobs, and **triples** the rate they get full time jobs as compared to their peers who are not in JAG. Given the dire youth unemployment situation we currently face, we are very proud of these findings.
- **Employer Satisfaction:** A random sample survey of employers of JAG graduates were asked by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce to rate their perceptions of JAG workers and the JAG program:
 - To quote the Chamber: *"The results portray a highly successful program that enjoys considerable success and one that is valued among JAG employers. Both the JAG program and the worker consistently received high rankings throughout the survey."*
 - An overwhelming majority of supervisors (98%) are "Very Likely" or "Somewhat Likely" to employ other JAG Graduates.
 - Only 3% of the JAG workers did not meet supervisors' expectations

THE JAG MODEL: COMPREHENSIVE, PRACTICAL, PROVEN, ACCOUNTABLE, COST EFFECTIVE

- **Classroom Instruction.** A trained "**Career Specialist**" provides individual and group instruction to **35-45 students** in a class delivered for credit during the school day.
- **Employability Skills.** The JAG NATIONAL CURRICULUM equips participants with a minimum of 37 employability competencies and intensive career exploration and training opportunities.
- **Adult Mentoring.** Specialists (JAG teachers) provide 180 contact hours and the individual attention at risk students need to overcome barriers that stand in the way of personal and academic success.
- **Advice and Support.** Specialists provide guidance as students make significant career and life decisions and connect participants to other social and education services in the community.
- **Summer Employment Training.** Job placement is provided and partnerships are developed with summer youth employment programs to maximize year-long learning.
- **Student-Led Leadership Development.** Participants join a highly motivating student-led organization to develop, practice and refine their leadership and teaming skills and serve their communities.
- **Job and Postsecondary Education Placement Services.** Employer marketing and assistance with postsecondary education opportunities is provided by the Specialist to support their students' postsecondary goals and successful transition to those opportunities following graduation.
- **12-Month Follow-up Services.** JAG provides no less than twelve months of follow-up services and support to participants after graduation or completion of a GED.
- **Accountability System.** A comprehensive, internet-based tracking and reporting system that includes information on the participants served, services delivered and performance outcomes.
- **Cost Effective Approach.** The cost of JAG is considerably less than other programs with the same goals.