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*JMG is thankful
for all of our
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Happy Holidays!

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JMG Students Receive Youth in Philanthropy Award

The students of Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG) have been named Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy for Maine by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Northern New England. JMG students are being recognized for demonstrating commitment to their communities through direct financial support and development of charitable programs.

The JMG students were nominated for the award by Kate Vickery, Volunteer Director of the Make-A-Wish Foundation. In her nomination letter Ms. Vickery states, "The example set by the students of JMG across the state of Maine not only serves as one for other programs under the Jobs for America's Graduates national program to follow – but also for any youth group or school group to follow. The community service efforts of the Jobs for Maine's Graduates program are an outstanding example of youth becoming actively engaged in their communities."



Mahoney Middle School Project Reach Council members Torie Catrett and Dezirae Brewer accepted the Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy Award on behalf of the 2,600 JMG students across the state on November 8th at the Eastland Hotel in Portland.

Leadership Training for JMG Students Officer Leadership Conference

Learning to be a leader is one of the key elements of the JMG program. To that end, high school students are elected to officer positions in their student-led Career Associations. In October, JMG officers from all over Maine gathered at the Pine Tree Camp in Rome to participate in leadership workshops and team building initiatives.

Approximately 200 JMG students had the opportunity to brainstorm with officers from other schools and make a plan for this school year's activities. The JMG officers also had the chance to interact with business people from a variety of industries and learn from their expertise.

Workshop facilitators included volunteers from Cianbro, Unum, Bangor Savings Bank, Geiger, Women Unlimited, Volunteers of America and Common Good Ventures.



June Koegel (center), JMG board member and president of Volunteers of America, participated in the Officer Leadership Conference by facilitating leadership workshops with JMG students who have been elected president of their Career Associations. Pictured with Ms. Koegel are Career Association presidents Taryn Green (Brewer High School) and Adam Gallant (Biddeford High School).

Initiation and Installation (I&I) Ceremonies

Every fall, JMG high school students throughout the state host I & I Ceremonies where students pledge to uphold the values of the JMG program. Family, friends and local business folks are invited to the ceremonies which include the installation of the Career Association officers.



*Belfast Area High School
I & I Ceremony – October 24.
Pictured: Maine Senator Carol
Weston, Career Association
President Arica Heroux, and
keynote speaker Cathy Reynolds
from Bangor Savings Bank.*

Project Reach News

Reach Officer Leadership Education Seminar (ROLES) took place in October at the Pine Tree Camp in Rome, Maine. The ROLES field trip is an overnight retreat that consists of working with Project Reach students from around the state on teambuilding and problem-solving exercises.

Students had the opportunity to work with Project Reach leaders from other schools regarding Reach Council; defining what it means to be an officer on Reach Council and how to best run Reach Council meetings. Students learned about the activities other Project Reach programs are doing around the state and how to best advertise those activities. Each school had the opportunity to write and produce a public service announcement for an upcoming Project Reach event.

Project Reach students met new friends from all over the state and learned leadership skills from volunteers from Bank of America and Cianbro.



Cow Island

Project Reach is an adventure-based curriculum featuring one of the students' favorite events, the fall field trip to Cow Island. In September, approximately 150 seventh grade Project Reach students took a boat to Cow Island in Casco Bay for an overnight camping excursion. With no electricity and very little in the way of creature comforts, the students learned about trust and teamwork by putting up tents and executing zip line exercises. Plus the students got a kayaking lesson from professional instructors from Rippleffect who also helped financially support this adventure.



JMG Student Success Story



Alex Doherty 2005 JMG Graduate Hall-Dale High School

“I joined JMG at the beginning of my senior year because I was going into my last year of high school not knowing what it was that I wanted to do after I graduated. I had heard so many good things about the JMG program that I knew it could be a great asset to me during a confusing year. This proved to be very true as is shown through all of the knowledge and skills I gained and my current position as an estimator for EJ Prescott in Round Lake, New York. I would like to give a special thanks to my JMG Specialist, Mr. John Burgess, for introducing me to the people at EJP and for first giving them my name for what was my future enrollment in the University of Prescott program. The JMG program has been helpful to me in many ways. In the classroom we spent time on exercises that helped to build a strong work ethic and taught us all how to become and remain professional while working with co-workers in an actual work setting.”

Alex Doherty, JMG Graduate

Bob Moody, Safety Manager for EJ Prescott, selected Alex for the University of Prescott program and has this to say about Alex: “Alex is the youngest estimator in our industry that we can remember and it is well earned. Alex is the type of employee that any employer would want to have. He has been extremely self motivated to learn and accepts any challenge that we have given him with a great attitude and a can do spirit.”

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