

## **PROJECT REACH STUDENTS PRESENT PROGRAM TO NATIONAL AUDIENCE**

South Portland – Thursday morning Project Reach students at Mahoney Middle School in South Portland will have the opportunity to show off their program and their accomplishments to a national audience. The board of directors from Jobs for America's Graduates is holding its annual meeting in Maine this year and learning more about the Project Reach program is top on the agenda.

Project Reach is the middle school program of Jobs for Maine's Graduates (JMG) and this year the Project Reach model is being adopted by Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) to be rolled out in JAG affiliates throughout the country. Project Reach was created and developed in Maine and staff from JMG will act as consultants to the new programs across the country. The launch of Project Reach nationwide gets its start with the introduction of the program to JAG's board of directors on Thursday.

The JAG board chose Maine as the location for their national meeting because of the Project Reach program and because Governor John Baldacci recently accepted the position as chair of the JAG board. Gov. Baldacci will welcome the JAG board to Maine with a lobster dinner and reception at the Blaine House on Wednesday night and is expected to attend the Project Reach event at Mahoney Middle School on Thursday morning.

Thursday morning's event will include presentations from the Project Reach students describing the program and how it has impacted their lives. JAG board members will be invited to participate in some of the activities that the middle school students use to develop leadership and communication skills.

Project Reach was created by JMG in 1995 to inspire middle school students to reach their personal potential. Project Reach is unique because it is the only program targeted to this age group that addresses issues as students transition to high school. Project Reach is a project-oriented and adventure-based program.

Project Reach partners with individual schools to increase the success of students. Middle school students participating in Project Reach improve their GPAs (average increase of 63%) and school attendance (average increase of 38%). There are currently sixteen Project Reach program sites in Maine.

JMG was established in 1993 by the Maine State Legislature and is currently serving approximately 2,500 students in more than 50 school-based sites statewide. The vision of JMG is to be a champion for all students who are facing challenges to education and to guide each one on to a successful path toward continued education, a meaningful career and productive adulthood.

For more information about this event or Project Reach, please contact Maureen Duggan at (207) 512-0540 or email [mduggan@jmg.org](mailto:mduggan@jmg.org).

For a complete list of JMG and Project Reach school sites, please visit [www.jmg.org](http://www.jmg.org)

What: Project Reach students present to Jobs for America's Graduates Board of Directors

Where: Mahoney Middle School, South Portland

When: Thursday, May 3

Time: 8:15 JAG board arrives at Mahoney Middle School  
8:20 – 8:30 Assembly in auditorium to welcome JAG board  
\*Principal Kathy Germani welcomes JAG board  
\*Gov. Baldacci or Ken Smith will address 8<sup>th</sup> graders about importance of staying in school  
\*Project Reach council presentation to JAG board  
8:35 – 9:30 Project Reach demonstrations and interaction with JAG Board as well as Q & A session with Project Reach panel