

JMG RECOGNIZED AS ‘BEST IN THE NATION’ . . . AGAIN!

Augusta - Jobs for Maine’s Graduates (JMG) has been recognized as the best program of its kind in the nation for helping students achieve success in school and beyond. This is the twelfth consecutive year JMG has won the award from the national organization Jobs for America’s Graduates. The award will be presented to JMG Thursday, October 12th at Portland High School. Gov. John Baldacci will be on hand to accept the award on behalf of JMG and the more than 20,000 Maine students who have been served by JMG since 1993.

Governor Baldacci says of JMG’s impact on the future of Maine, “I am impressed with the results and positive outcomes achieved by JMG. A success story in Maine, JMG promotes educational and economic excellence. This program prepares our youth for the jobs of the 21st century right here in Maine.”

More JMG students (96%) graduate from high school than other Maine students (86%). Five years ago, 33% of JMG students pursued postsecondary education. For the Class of 2006, 45% of JMG students enrolled in postsecondary education. Six years after high school graduation, the Class of 1998 JMG graduates are earning an average of \$115 more per month than the rest of the 22-24 year olds in Maine.

Jobs for Maine’s Graduates (JMG) was established in 1993 by the Maine State Legislature. JMG 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 to a brighter future. JMG measures its success one student at a time. JMG’s core programs include a high-school and a middle-school program.

JMG’s high school program keeps students in high school through graduation and prepares students for meaningful careers. Students take JMG as a one-credit course that compliments their regular course load. JMG partners with individual schools to increase the success of the JMG students.

JMG’s middle school program, Project Reach, is also gaining recognition nationwide. This year the Project Reach model was adopted by Jobs for America’s Graduates to be rolled out in JAG affiliates throughout the country. . JMG staff will act as consultants to the new programs. Project Reach was created here in Maine to meet the growing needs of middle school students transitioning into high school. There are currently sixteen Project Reach program sites in Maine.

JMG president Craig Larrabee attributes JMG’s success to the program itself, the JMG staff and Specialists and the support of the people of Maine. “JMG works because JMG keeps students at the center of the educational process. Whether today’s youth chose to pursue higher education or employment in Maine’s workforce, JMG believes they must have the skills necessary to achieve their personal potential in life. Maine’s youth must be

ready for continued education, careers and citizenship so they can be active contributors to the state's social and economic future. JMG guides them in the right direction.”

For more information about JMG, Project Reach or this event, please contact Maureen Duggan at (207) 582-0924, ext. 216 or email mduggan@jmg.org.

For a complete list of JMG and Project Reach school sites, please visit www.jmg.org

JMG Award Presentation

Thursday, October 12

1pm

JMG Classroom, Portland High School