

# **JOBS FOR MAINE'S GRADUATES AND MAINE MENTORING PARTNERSHIP MERGE TO SERVE MORE MAINE STUDENTS**

**May 17, 2007**

## **For Immediate Release**

Bangor – Jobs for Maine's Graduates, Inc. (JMG) and the Maine Mentoring Partnership (MMP) are joining forces to serve more Maine students. The mission of JMG is to identify students who face barriers to education, and to guide each one on to a successful path toward continued education, a meaningful career, and a productive adulthood. MMP is a statewide nonprofit with a mission to promote, advocate, foster and support child and youth mentoring programs throughout Maine.

The merger will be announced Wednesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at JMG's Annual Field Day event at Husson College in Bangor. Approximately 700 JMG high school students from across the state will be involved in team building and communication activities as part of JMG's experiential-based programming model. Bangor Savings Bank is the major sponsor of the Field Day event and applauds the collaborative effort of the merger of JMG and MMP.

"Both Jobs for Maine's Graduates and Maine Mentoring have successfully been serving the needs of Maine for years. They share a common mission of mentoring and it only makes sense for the two organizations to become one," said Maine Mentoring Partnership Board Chair Yellow Breen.

JMG President and CEO Craig Larrabee explained, "Maine Mentoring Partnership programs will now fall under the umbrella of JMG. The goal is to bring more mentoring initiatives into JMG classrooms and to offer more mentoring programs throughout the state of Maine. Combining the two organizations will be more efficient and cost effective, allowing us to leverage our resources and serve more Maine students. This action would not have been possible without the support of our community partners and our friends in the state Legislature."

One of those friends is State Representative Jeremy Fischer (D-Presque Isle, House Co-chair of the Appropriations Committee) who recently backed an effort to provide funding to MMP. “Maine Mentoring Partnership investigated opportunities to partner with other agencies that incorporate mentoring into their programs. These partnerships leverage resources, eliminate duplication of efforts and offer centralized services. The consolidation of such services and resources is likely to expand the opportunities available to young people in our state.”

JMG helps high-school and middle-school students discover their individual talents, develop skills, and seize opportunities to achieve their personal potential. By enabling students to more fully realize their potential, JMG’s programs benefit all of Maine and its communities. JMG is currently serving approximately 2,500 students in more than 50 school-based sites statewide.

What: JMG Field Day and announcement of JMG and MMP merger

When: Wednesday, May 23, 8:30am – 2:30 pm

Where: Husson College, Bangor

The Maine Mentoring Partnership announcement will take place during the Opening Ceremonies

For more information about Field Day, JMG or MMP, please contact Maureen Duggan at (207) 512-0540 or email [mduggan@jmg.org](mailto:mduggan@jmg.org).