

News Release
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Local Jobs for Michigan's Graduates Program Receives State and National Recognition

TRAVERSE CITY, MI— Staff members with the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) program in northwest Michigan have received state and national recognition for their work with the program. The awards include Specialist of the Year, Peak Performance, and Top 3 Performer. The awards were presented at the JMG Summer Summit in Lansing. The JMG program is coordinated in the region by Northwest Michigan Works!.

LeAnne Bush, the Youth Career Technical Education Placement Advisor at the Wexford-Missaukee Career Tech Center, was honored as a JMG Specialist of the Year. Bush also received a national Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Peak Performance Award for student graduation rate. Dana Venhuizen, the Career Preparation Specialist and JMG Specialist at the TBA Career Tech Center, received national JAG Peak Performance Awards for student graduation rate, and for helping students overcome barriers. Northwest Michigan Works! Regional Operations Manager, Kathy Taylor, received Top 3 Performers in the State of Michigan recognition for managing the JMG program in Northwest Michigan.

Earlier this year, the JMG program in northwest Michigan received a national 5-of-5 Award from the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Board of Directors for the third year in a row. The individual JMG programs at the Char-Em, Traverse Bay Area, and Wexford-Missaukee ISDs also received 5-of-5 recognition. The 5-of-5 Award recognizes JMG programs that meet or exceed national standards in five categories measuring student success, including graduation rate, further education rate, and job placements.

JMG helps Michigan's young adults graduate and make successful transitions to postsecondary education or meaningful employment. Besides coordinating the programs at the ISDs in the region, Northwest Michigan Works! also offers JMG Out of School Dropout Recovery programs in Kalkaska and Manistee.

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Jobs for Michigan's Graduates is the leading program of Youth Solutions, Inc., a premiere youth opportunity organization on a mission to equip young people with the skills to overcome barriers and win in education, employment, and as citizens. Youth Solutions is the state-based affiliate of the national Jobs for America's Graduates organization (jag.org), one of the largest and most successful school-to-work systems in the United States. The JMG model consists of a comprehensive set of services designed to keep young people in school through graduation and improve the rate of success in achieving education and career goals. For more information on Youth Solutions and its Jobs for Michigan's Graduates programming, visit ouryouthsolutions.org.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by e-mailing Dan Boss at dan.boss@networksnorthwest.org and stating preferences for resolution (300 dpi?), file format (.tif? .jpg?) and file size (1MB or less?). Or, phone (231) 929-5047. Check our online Media Room at: networksnorthwest.org/media

Founded in 1974, Networks Northwest facilitates and manages various programs and services for the 10 county region. These programs include Northwest Michigan Works, Small Business Development Center, Procurement Technical Assistance Center, various business services, and many different regional planning initiatives in response to our communities' requests and needs. You will see the broad spectrum of workforce, business and community services Networks Northwest offers if you visit our website, networksnorthwest.org

Networks Northwest's member counties are: Antrim, Benzie, Charlevoix, Emmet, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Leelanau, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford.