

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 2025

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JMG Student from Traverse City Takes First Place Nationally in Prepared Speaking

TRAVERSE CITY, MI – Riley Brown, a Jobs for Michigan's Graduates (JMG) student at Northwestern Michigan College, recently earned top honors at the National Career Development Conference (NCDC) held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Sponsored by Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG), the four-day event brought together more than 1,500 students from across the country to showcase their skills, explore career opportunities, and connect with employers.

Brown competed in the Prepared Speaking event and secured a first-place finish, demonstrating outstanding communication skills and leadership. Brown's Prepared Speaking competition focused on enhancing oral communication skills, with the topic: "How has Jobs for Michigan Graduates (JAG) supported you in looking toward and preparing for the future?" Her speech was limited to a maximum of five minutes and was evaluated on criteria including delivery, engagement, overall impression, and more.

Antrim Benzie Charlevoix Emmet Grand Traverse Kalkaska Leelanau Manistee Missaukee Wexford

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In addition to her competition success, Brown was one of only 20 students nationwide selected to take the national officer exam and interview for the role of JAG Career Association President-Elect. She advanced to the Top 16 candidates in the race for office, a major accomplishment that highlights her dedication, hard work, and leadership potential. While she did not advance to the final round, Brown's outstanding performance throughout the conference highlights her potential and marks the start of a promising future.

Reflecting on her experience, Riley shared, *"No matter what, I'll be winning at the end of the day because of this opportunity!"*

Now in her third year with the JMG program, Brown has achieved remarkable success—congratulations to her, as well as to her JMG Specialist, Lisa Baldyga, and Youth Advisor Council Advisor, Kelsey Leemaster, for their guidance and support.

Locally, the Jobs for Michigan's Graduates program is delivered by Northwest Michigan Works, a program of Networks Northwest, in partnership with intermediate school districts and postsecondary institutions.

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NOTE to Media: Images are oftentimes available upon request by emailing Dana O'Dell at dana.odell@networksnorthwest.org and stating preferences for resolution, file format, and file size. Or phone (231) 929-5075. 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!, APEX Accelerator (formerly PTAC), 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.

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